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Cabinet approves budget speech

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday approved the text of the government's presentation of the draft budget for 1997 to Parliament. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said. Officials said slight changes were made in the budget according to the priorities of various ministries and departments. Finance Minister Marwan Awad is expected to present the budget to Parliament this week. The Cabinet also endorsed a draft law on protection for national products and another on securities. Dr. Muasher, briefing reporters after the Cabinet session, reiterated Jordan's call on the new Israeli government to abide by the agreements its predecessor had signed with the Palestinians and move towards the final status negotiations as called for in the interim accords. He pointed out that the interim accord called for Israeli redeployment in the area classified as "B" in Palestinian territories in stages starting Sept. 7 1996 and Sept. 7 1997 but nothing had taken place yet.

Jordan Times

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Parliament reaffirms support for policies as outlined in King's speech from Throne

Lawzi and Srour, presenting Senate and House replies to the speech to Regent, hail Jordan's efforts for comprehensive peace, improved inter-Arab relations and stand on Jerusalem

Both houses endorse government's economic programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on Saturday reaffirmed full support for His Majesty King Hussein's directives to the government over issues pertaining to national economy, relations with Arab countries and the Kingdom's backing for the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve freedom.

Presenting to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, replies to King Hussein's speech from the Throne which was delivered to a joint session of Parliament on Nov. 19, the speakers of the Senate (Upper House) and the Lower House, Ahmad Lawzi and Sa'ad Hayel Srour, said Parliament supported the King's efforts to attain a just comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East based on U.N. resolutions and with a view to safeguarding the present and future Arab people's rights and interests.

The Senate said the speech from the Throne was comprehensive, clearly setting for the government broadlines of policies that are designed to deal with present and future challenges.

The Senate said it highly valued King Hussein's relentless endeavours to settle inter-Arab differences and reestablish sound and strong political and economic ties with other Arab states.

It also endorsed the government's economic policies to address the imbalances in the budget and



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Parliament members at Saturday's presentation of the legislature's reply to the speech from the Throne by His Majesty King Hussein on Nov. 19 (Petra photo)

attract investments and increase production as well as the King's directives to the government to work towards safeguarding national unity grouping Christian and Muslim citizens of different origins. It supported the Royal directives to the government to give due attention to the needy and ensure a "social safety net" for the less fortunate citizens.

The Senate voiced support for the King's endeavours to enhance the capabilities of the Jordanian Armed Forces, which, it said, serve as a shield protecting the nation.

The Senate said that it fully backs King Hussein's policies concerning the holy shrines in Arab East Jerusalem and his announcement that Jordan was serving as a custodian of the holy places until the time comes for handing

over the trust to the Palestinian leadership following Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the final settlement and the creation of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Senate also appreciated King Hussein's policies concerning the relations between the executive and legislative authorities including the question of deputies holding ministerial posts with a view to allowing the two authorities to operate in an atmosphere free of negative influences.

The Lower House of Parliament said it shared with the King his concern over the situation in the Middle East region resulting from Israel's reneging on its commitments and its agreements with the Palestinian leadership.

The House backed King Hussein's endeavours to prevent the Judaisation of

Jerusalem and its holy sites and condemned Israel's illegal practices which included the opening of new entrance to a tunnel near, Al Aqsa Mosque "with the objective of demolishing the holy site."

The deputies said that Israel was pursuing similar plots against Hebron and called for a collective and firm Arab and Muslim stand to confront the Zionist danger in the Palestinian lands.

Stressing the need for continued help to the Palestinians to enable them to regain their rights, the deputies voiced backing for King Hussein's efforts to ensure a comprehensive and just peace.

They condemned Israel's continued attempts to disrupt the peace process by refusing to implement the peace accords and by "black-mailing" the Palestinians.

The deputies said that Amman was qualified to host an Arab summit to discuss the Israeli violations at a time when the Arab countries are supported by the European nations, which, in their latest declaration, voiced clear and overwhelming support for the Palestinian people in the face of Israel's obstinacy.

The House referred to Jordan's economic crisis and said that the crisis does not discourage the Jordanian people from pursuing their efforts towards implementing the economic reform programme and increasing production.

The deputies stressed their backing for government policies regarding openness to the world markets and promoting free trade and its efforts to join the World Trade Organisation and achieve partnership with the European Union.

They recommended that the government carry out measures to ensure continued financial and monetary stability and introduce economic laws encouraging the private sector to assume a bigger role in investments.

The deputies welcomed the government's plans to close the gap among various social classes and called for a reexamination of the roles played by the aid funds with a view to achieving that goal and securing social safety for the underprivileged groups in society.



Delegates from Arab and European parliaments attend the Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue that opened in Amman on Saturday (Petra photo)

Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue seeks to boost EU role in Mideast, enhance European-Arab relations

By Farida Salfiti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Achieving greater cooperation between Europe and the Arab World is the objective of the Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue which opened its two-day session in Amman on Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The main points of discussion are ways in which Euro-Arab cooperation could address reactivating the Middle East peace process with greater European involvement, lifting the sanctions imposed on Arab countries, and combating terrorism. Emphasis was also placed on greater economic and cultural cooperation between Europe and the Arab world.

Crown Prince Hassan expressed his concern in regards to Euro-Arab relations, suggesting that Europe was more concerned with East Asia than with the region, as the Middle East was not present in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit last week. "We felt sadness that at the ASEAN summit we weren't present," he said.

The Regent criticised Europe for its ill-coordinated policy towards the Middle East, and for those who regard the region merely as a market for arms in exchange for cheap oil. Governments need to search in earnest for peace, and not merely pursue their own individual agendas, he said.

Euro-Arab dialogue

Zuhdi Al Qidra, the Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, said in a statement that Mr. Arafat would brief Mr. Mubarak on the failure of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to reach agreement on Israel's pullout from Hebron.

A spokesman at Mr. Qidra's office said it was not clear if Mr. Arafat would attend an Arab League emergency meeting to be held in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

"No practical and tangible progress is being made on the ground because of the rejection by the Israeli side to implement what has been agreed," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat said the Israeli negotiating team in talks on the redeployment of Israeli troops "wanted to change a number of key articles in the Hebron accord, which is what the Palestinian side rejects."

needs to develop a discourse that removes some of the contradictions that exist, he added.

"Only once these contradictions are addressed, will an agenda for the Middle East that looks less worrisome than it did at the end of the 19th century be possible," he said.

He stressed the need to address the humanitarian aspect of the region. "My hope is that the New World Order could be made the new world humanitarian order with full participation of civic society," he said.

He welcomed the agreement to allow Iraq to sell oil to buy food and medicine but warned that the limited alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people should not provide a reason to continue pursuing a hardline policy against Iraq.

Sir Robert Hicks, co-chairman of the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation, spoke of the possibility of blocking ratification of agreements signed between the European Union (EU) and Israel under the Euro-Mediterranean agreements. He suggested that the implementation of these agreements be linked to progress on the peace front.

During the executive meeting of the Association of European Parliamentarians held on Friday evening, 14 delegates from European national assemblies took the decision to lobby for the postponement of ratification of the Euro-Mediterranean agreement between Europe and Israel. This would send a signal to

Israel that they are unhappy with Israel's current policies towards the peace process.

Sir Robert also said European parliamentarians could exert influence within their national parliaments for greater European involvement in the peace process.

Attending the conference are representatives of European and Arab parliaments. Oman and Kuwait apologised for not being able to participate. The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation, which organised the dialogue, was established in 1974 by two European parliamentarians to improve and strengthen Euro-Arab relations and to work towards achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. The association has four stated objectives: developing political relations between Europe and the Arab World; cooperation to find a solution to the Palestinian question; developing closer cooperation in the transfer of technology and economic relations; and working towards gaining a greater understanding of each other.

Among its activities, it regularly organises Euro-Arab parliamentary dialogues. The Amman meeting is the first session in eight years that was held in an Arab country. The last Euro-Arab Parliamentary dialogue took place in Paris in April 1994. Although Europe hosted the Madrid peace conference, (Continued on page 12)

Qadhafi appreciates Jordan's position

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi expressing high appreciation of Jordan's call for a review of the U.N. sanctions against Libya, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The Jordanian call came in comments made by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti during a press conference in Madrid last week (see page 12).

Prince Hamzeh undergoes surgery

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein on Saturday underwent an appendectomy. According to His Majesty King Hussein's private physician, Samir Farraj, the surgery was a complete success and Prince Hamzeh is now in good health.

Kabariti meets Egyptian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday received at his office Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Mottammad Bassouiny in the presence of Minister of Information Marwan Muasher. The meeting focused on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Arafat visits UAE and Qatar for talks on ties and peace process

Palestinian leader holds talks with Kabariti en route to Gulf, says no advance made in Hebron negotiations

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew to Qatar on Saturday after a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he met its president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, officials said.

Passing through Jordan earlier on Saturday, Mr. Arafat held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti. He told reporters no real progress had been made in talks with Israel on the delayed handover to Palestinian self-rule of the West Bank town of Hebron and he might seek international arbitration in the dispute.

Mr. Arafat also called on the sponsors of the peace process — the United States and Russia — as well as the European Union and the international community to force Israel to implement its Oslo II agreement with the Palestinians.

"We are looking for international arbitration and especially with the ones who signed Oslo II agreement," Mr. Arafat told Associated Press television.

He paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts to advance Arab-Israeli peace talks, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations.

Mr. Arafat described Mr. Kabariti's short visit to Jericho on Thursday as successful, stressing the identical views of Jordanians and Palestinians regarding the peace process.

During Mr. Kabariti's visit, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) discussed bilateral relations and joint efforts to advance the peace process, he said.

Mr. Arafat, who was received at the King Hussein Bridge by Mr. Kabariti, said he wanted to congratulate Sheikh Zayed on the successful surgery he underwent at Mayo Clinic few weeks ago and to discuss with him issues of contention concern as well as the peace process.

He said he would also discuss bilateral ties and the peace process with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifah Al Thani. President Arafat was seen off by Mr. Kabariti and

senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials, including the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Omar Khair.

Reports from Abu Dhabi said Sheikh Zayed, in his talks with Mr. Arafat, underlined the importance of abiding by peace agreements reached between Israel and Arab states.

He stressed "the dangers of Israel going back on its pledges, a matter that could destroy efforts to implement peace and stability in the region," the official UAE news agency WAM reported.

The talks also covered bilateral ties and UAE aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, where Sheikh Zayed is financing a housing project.

"President Arafat also congratulated Sheikh Zayed on the success of his neck surgery and on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the UAE," Palestinian Apibus-sador Khaled Malik said.

A Palestinian official in Cairo said Mr. Arafat would visit the Egyptian capital on Sunday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the

stalled Middle East peace process.

Zuhdi Al Qidra, the Palestinian ambassador to Cairo, said in a statement that Mr. Arafat would brief Mr. Mubarak on the failure of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to reach agreement on Israel's pullout from Hebron.

A spokesman at Mr. Qidra's office said it was not clear if Mr. Arafat would attend an Arab League emergency meeting to be held in Cairo on Sunday to discuss Israel's expansion of Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

"No practical and tangible progress is being made on the ground because of the rejection by the Israeli side to implement what has been agreed," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat said the Israeli negotiating team in talks on the redeployment of Israeli troops "wanted to change a number of key articles in the Hebron accord, which is what the Palestinian side rejects."

Stocks sharply rebound over Iraq deal

AMMAN (RI) — Jordanian stocks on Saturday rose to their highest levels in nine months on optimism for a revival of trade with Iraq once the delayed U.N. oil-for-food deal is implemented. Investors said resumed active buying across-the-board was fuelled by the chance for trade revival with Jordan's biggest trading partner. "The market's strong showing maybe a prelude for better things to come once Iraq does finally begin to sell oil," said Omar Al Masri, head of Atlas Investment Group, a financial consultancy specialising in regional emerging markets. Firms have still not made up for the loss of the Iraqi market in 1990 when economic sanctions were imposed on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait. The Amman Financial Market 60-share index rose to its highest level since March to 152.89 points in trade worth JD2.6 million, nearly three-fold its recent average. The bourse's 1.89 per cent rise on Saturday was the highest one day jump since last April's short rally triggered by government instigated buying by state pension funds.

King Fahd, Perry discuss security of U.S. contingent

RIYADH (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry held talks on Saturday with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd on the protection of American servicemen in the kingdom where two attacks have killed 24 U.S. troops in the past year.

"They met for about forty minutes. The focus of the discussion was force protection measures," a senior defence official told reporters travelling with Mr. Perry.

Taking part in the discussion was U.S. Army General Binford Peay, commander of the U.S. Military Central Command.

The official said the king and the secretary noted during the meeting, which began at about 2.00 a.m. local time at the king's palace, that a joint U.S.-Saudi investigation on the second bombing in June that killed 19 Americans "reached no conclusion yet and was still continuing."

Mr. Perry later visited Eskin village, about 130 kilometres south east of Riyadh, where more than 1,000 U.S. troops were moved after the attack.

"We uprooted a lot of you, we did it to protect you," Mr. Perry told the troops at the secure facility. "You can feel quite safe I believe."

Eskin village, originally built by the Saudis for

bedouins, has about 800 air conditioned villas surrounded by a three metre high wall topped by barbed wire and a 90-metre "exclusion zone" between the highway and outer perimeter.

Three checkpoints guarded by soldiers with automatic weapons and guard dogs control access.

The Saudi government executed four Saudis after the first bombing attack. Saudi authorities and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) were cooperating in investigating the two bombings.

The second bombing attack killed 19 Americans and unconfirmed reports says the Saudis have arrested as many as 40 people in connection with the investigations.

U.S. officials earlier expressed their dissatisfaction with Saudi Arabia's cooperation with the FBI. But the FBI said this week it was now satisfied.

"The secretary and the king had a very good meeting in the wee hours of the morning as is normal. The king was very active and engaged. He obviously had prepared himself for the discussion," the senior U.S. official said.

He said the king "reaffirmed the kingdom's commitment to do all it could to help assist in the

relocation and to ensure that American forces are secure and comfortable."

Since an attack in Riyadh in November of last year that killed five U.S. troops, and another in Dhahran on June 25 that killed 19 Americans, the U.S. military has moved 4,000 air force personnel to a remote prince sultan airbase in the desert 100 kilometres southeast of the Saudi capital.

Another 1,000 U.S. military personnel involved in security and cooperating in the investigations were moved to Eskin.

Nearly 100 U.S. F-15 and other attack and fighter jets were moved to Sultan airbase at Al Kharij in the past two months.

"They also reviewed the security situation in the region, including Iran and Iraq," said the official.

Some 200 U.S. British and French warplanes based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue to fly missions over Iraq to enforce a warning to President Saddam Hussein against again attacking Kuwait or Shi'ite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Mr. Perry announced in Kuwait earlier that eight radar-avoiding F-117A Stealth fighter bombers would remain in Kuwait to challenge any threats from Iraq and Iran.



DEMAND FOR PRISONER RELEASE: Families and friends of prisoners hold signs calling for the immediate release of the detainees in Israeli prisons during a sit-in in Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday. Palestinians demonstrated in West Bank cities for the release of some 4,000 prisoners from Israeli detention who were due to have been freed under the terms of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation peace deals (Reuters photo)

U.N. marks 'International Day of Solidarity' with Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations marked the "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" on Friday with declarations of support for peace and thinly veiled attacks on Israel's policies in the occupied territories.

U.N. General Assembly President Razali Ismail of Malaysia said the peace process was at risk because of a "wafer-thin majority that seeks to build a 'secure' future on the foundations of military superiority and the antagonisms of the past."

He did not explicitly mention the Israeli government, but appeared to be referring to the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Mr. Razali said the viability of a Palestinian homeland "is now progressively

being diminished by policies of continued closure, repression and restricted movement that denies the rights of the Palestinian people."

"Meanwhile, the human rights situation in the occupied territories continues to deteriorate," he said. "Palestinians are being intimidated and physically abused. The expansion of illegal settlements, the delay in the redeployment of troops from the West Bank city of Hebron and the decision to open an entrance to a tunnel in the vicinity of East Jerusalem have led to an escalation of violence."

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali paid tribute to Israeli and Palestinian leaders for their efforts on behalf of peace.

"But the proposed construction of new settle-

ments in the West Bank and Gaza pose a serious threat to the continuation of the peace process," Mr. Ghali said. "I hope that progress can also be made in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace process."

He said moving the headquarters recently of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which assists Palestinians, from Vienna to Gaza will enable the United Nations to play a more effective role in development projects.

"However, enormous challenges remain, and some of our efforts have suffered setbacks during the year in light of the deteriorating conditions on the ground," he added.

Mr. Ghali called on donor countries to increase their contributions to the agency.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish troops kill 57 rebels

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — The army killed 57 Kurdish rebels in intensified operations along the Turkish-Iraqi border and in other clashes in southeastern Turkey, it was announced on Saturday. One soldier, who stepped on a mine, was killed, the regional governor's office based in this southeastern city said. The dispatch did not say when exactly the operations took place, but said 47 rebels, trying to infiltrate into Turkey from northern Iraq, were killed in Hakkari province, bordering Iraq. The Kurdish guerrillas, fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984, stage hit-and-run attacks from their bases in northern Iraq. The rest of the rebel casualties occurred in the provinces of Bingöl, Siirt and Sirt. More than 210,000 people have lost their lives in the conflict since 1984.

Turkish opposition party sponsors protests

ISTANBUL (AP) — Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in a downtown square Saturday over allegations of mafia-linked corruption. Opposition parties have blamed the Islamic-led government for allowing organised crime to sneak into its ranks and into the security forces. Alleged state-mafia ties came to light early this month when a fugitive ultranationalist connected to the Turkish mafia, and a police chief were killed in a traffic accident. They were riding in the same car.

Wall collapse kills 3 in Mecca

JEDDAH (AP) — A wall collapsed at a construction site in Mecca, killing three Egyptian workers and injuring three others, the Arab News reported Saturday. The site was in the Harat Al Bab district near the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site. The accident occurred Friday. On Wednesday, two old buildings collapsed in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, killing one Yemeni man and injuring three Saudis, including a two-month old boy. The buildings apparently toppled after unusually heavy rains recently that weakened the roofs and walls, the newspaper said.

Bosnian premier in Kuwait seeking funds

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic began a two-day visit here on Saturday to try to drum up financial support for the reconstruction of his war-torn country, the official Kuwaiti news agency said. Mr. Muratovic met Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and other ministers, KUNA said. In an interview with KUNA on Thursday, Mr. Muratovic said his discussions in Kuwait and other Gulf states were aimed at boosting political and financial support for Bosnia's reconstruction programme. The state-owned Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, which provides soft loans and grants inside and outside the Arab World, signed a memorandum in July to help finance a range of infrastructure repair projects in Bosnia.

Iran concludes 'successful' military exercises in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's military forces have concluded "successful" manoeuvres in the Gulf and Oman sea, the official IRNA news agency announced Saturday.

The last phase of the manoeuvres, code-named "Victory 7," involved the firing of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles on Thursday whose speed and range have been improved by Iranian technicians, the news agency said.

Some 10,000 servicemen, 40 aircraft and 100 warships took part in the 10-day military exercises, Iran's largest ever, IRNA said.

According to the Iranian authorities, the aim of the manoeuvres was to reinforce coordination between the regular army, navy and units of the elite revolutionary guards.

State television reported Thursday that a helicopter had crashed during the manoeuvres. It said the accident was caused by technical problems, but

gave no indication of casualties or when the helicopter crashed.

During the manoeuvres, Iranian tested indigenous rocket launchers named "Thunder" and equipped with the "most advanced mechanical and electronic systems."

Iranian jets, destroyers, gunboats and marines also launched a 14-hour dusk to dawn attack to retake an island from a mock enemy.

The operation covered an area of 2,000 square kilometres around the islands of Ghesm and Hengam, which are close to the three strategic islands claimed by both Tehran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Iran presently controls Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb and has vowed to go to war to keep them.

Iran became the only country in the Gulf that possesses submarines after it acquired three Kilo-class subs from Russia.

Saddam aide to be treated in France

AMMAN (J.T) — A close aide to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is due in Paris on Monday to be treated for a blood clot on the brain, officials here said Saturday.

Colonel Roukan Razzouki Abdel Ghafour Al Majid, 40, President Saddam's aide de camp, has been treated in a hospital in Amman for the past two days, added the officials, quoted by the Agence France Presse.

Col. Majid belongs to the powerful Al Majid family which, according to Iraqi officials, carried out the assassination of two of President Saddam's sons-in-law when they returned home in February after defecting to Jordan in August 1995.

Many Iraqi officials have undergone medical treatment in Amman mainly because of the crippled health services in Iraq because of the international sanctions on that country.

Egyptian ambassador to Israel denies ties are worsening

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Egypt's ambassador to Israel said Saturday that relations between the two countries were "normal" and have not deteriorated.

"There is no deterioration, bilateral relations are normal," Mohammad Bassiouny told Israeli radio.

"This does not mean Egypt has to approve all the decisions of the Israeli government, just as Israel does not have to accept all of our demands," the Egyptian diplomat said.

Asked about reports of his possible recall to Egypt, Mr. Bassiouny said: "I don't know anything about that. It's up to the government to make such a decision and I haven't heard anything officially."

The Egyptian envoy called on the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to implement all of the agreements reached with the Palestinians.

"We urge the Israeli government to start implementing the Oslo accords on Hebron, but also the extension of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the opening of a free passage between the two regions," he said.

Cairo has been increasingly critical of Mr. Netanyahu since he took power in June, but the

ambassador said: "We have absolutely nothing against Mr. Netanyahu. We just want to encourage him to apply the agreements."

Mr. Bassiouny denied that Egypt was seeking to persuade other Arab countries not to normalise relations with Israel. "We have diplomatic relations with Israel," he said. "How could we convince other Arab countries not to do the same?"

He recalled that Egypt was a member of the Arab League and bound to abide by its decisions. Asked about Israeli-Syrian relations, the ambassador called for an end to the "verbal escalation" between the two countries and criticised statements made by Israeli leaders.

The envoy also said that Egyptian military manoeuvres in September were not of an aggressive nature. "The Israeli army also trains from time to time. To have a strong peace you need a strong army. That's our strategy," he said.

Anger over pyramids comment

Egypt's culture minister has attacked Mr. Netanyahu for claiming that the Giza Pyramids were built by Jews and not the ancient Egyptians.

"We will not stand by and do nothing about

these allegations, which show an ignorance of history," Culture Minister Farouk Husni was quoted as saying in Saturday's editions of Al Wafd newspaper.

The paper did not give any details about Mr. Netanyahu's claims or when he made them. Mr. Hosni said, however, that Mr. Netanyahu was not the first to make such allegations, recalling comments which sparked Egyptian outrage in the 1970s by the then Israeli prime minister, Menachem Begin, who said during a visit to the pyramids that they were the work of Jews.

"(Netanyahu) should have referred to historical works to know that the Jews arrived for the first time in Egypt (after the construction of the pyramids)," Mr. Hosni said. The three Giza Pyramids were built between 2700 and 2190 B.C. as royal tombs. According to the Bible, Jewish slaves took part in their construction before leaving Egypt with Moses.

"The temples and tombs were sacred to the pharaohs, and that is why they did not allow non-Egyptians to approach them or to take part in their construction," Mr. Hosni said. "Jews did work in Egypt as stonemasons, which could be the origin of these allegations," he added.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

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14:30...You Bet Your Life
15:00...Cajou
15:30...Week-Ends Spectra
16:00...Doc...World Echo
16:30...The Fanions Five (Drama)
17:00...News Flash
17:02...Our World, Their World
17:15...Search and Rescue
18:00...Magazine...Faut Pas Rever
19:00...Le Journal
19:15...Magazine...Sports Et Musique
19:30...News Headlines
19:35...Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00...Auto-Classics
20:30...The Album Show
21:10...Doc...Hold Up the Sun
22:00...News in English
22:25...Drama...Cover
23:15...Miami Vice
23:59...Yes Minister

PRAYER TIMES

04:51...Fajr
06:12...Sunrise Duha
11:24...Dhuhr
14:14...Asr
16:36...Maghreb
17:57...Isha

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14:05...Fievels American Tails
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16:36...Maghreb
17:57...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman...09/19
Aqaba...14/28
Deserts...07/21
Jordan Valley...14/28

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 21, Aqaba 29 Humidity
readings: Amman 31 per cent,
Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Bassam Karadshah...759200
Dr. Ramzi Mazaawi...894788
Dr. Khalid Abdo...657129
Dr. Salwan Daboubi...77651
Firas pharmacy...661912
Ferdows pharmacy...778336
Al Asma pharmacy...637055
Naioukh pharmacy...623672
Al Salam pharmacy...636730
Yacoub pharmacy...644945
Shmeisani pharmacy...637660
Najib pharmacy...847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr...276852
Al Quds pharmacy...1...
ZARQA:
Dr. Riyadh Al Ya'coub...543368
Khalifah pharmacy...985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre...637111
Civil Defence Department...661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341
The Islamic, Abdali...666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali...664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen...777101/3
Al-Bashir...775111/26
Army, Marka...891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital...602240/50
Amal Hospital...674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and
Special Surgery...865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital
(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital...69986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
(09)909990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
(02)272275
Ibn Al Nufes Hospital
(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre...813813/32
Khalidi Maternity...64281/6
Akkleh Maternity...642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity...636140
Malhas, J. Amman...636140
Palestine, Shmeisani...607071
Shmeisani Hospital...669131
University Hospital...845845

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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department at the Queen Alia
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always be verified. Information on

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:45...Aqaba (RJ)
08:15...Bombay (RJ)
08:35...Jeddah (RJ)
08:45...Beirut (RJ)
08:50...Lamaca (RJ)
09:15...Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:50...Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:05...Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45...Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:45...Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:45...London (RJ)
18:10...Athens (RJ)
19:10...Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30...Tunis (RJ)
19:50...Rome (RJ)
20:00...Jeddah (add) (RJ)
20:30...Vienna (RJ)
20:40...Cairo (RJ)
03:00...Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

06:20...Tel Aviv (LY)
12:40...Bahrain (GF)
15:20...Moscow (SU)
15:30...Duhai (ME)
20:10...Beirut (ME)
20:30...Cairo (MS)
23:10...Istanbul (TK)
23:50...London, Beirut (BA)
01:25...Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:15...Aqaba (RJ)
06:20...Beirut (RJ)
09:15...Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00...Tunis (RJ)
11:30...Rome (RJ)
11:30...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:35...Vienna (RJ)
12:15...London (RJ)
12:20...Athens (RJ)
15:00...Jeddah (add) (RJ)
17:20...Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
20:00...Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)
20:10...Cairo (RJ)
20:30...Jeddah (RJ)
20:40...Damascus (RJ)
21:00...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00...New Delhi (RJ)
22:00...Damascus (RJ)
22:00...Jeddah (RJ)
22:10...Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:45...Bangkok (RJ)
22:45...Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

06:30...London (KL)
07:00...Beirut (ME)
07:15...Tel Aviv (LY)
07:35...Damascus, London (BA)
13:30...Doha (GF)
16:35...Moscow (SU)
21:25...Cairo (MS)

Royal Wing (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW) (departing from Marka Airport)
20:30...Aqaba (RW)

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman...8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus...5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus...7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman...5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple...700/500
Banana...550/550
Banana (imported)...800/500
Cabbage...80/40
Carrot...280/150
Cauliflower...160/140
Cucumber (large)...120/70
Cucumber (small)...180/150
Eggplant...120/60
Garlic...750/550
Grapes...340/300
Lemon...380/200
Marrow (large)...120/100
Marrow (small)...180/150
Onion (green)...220/120
Onion (dry)...150/80
Orange...550/400
Pear...650/500
Pepper (hot)...250/180
Pepper (sweet)...200/120
Potato...310/180
Spinach...180/100
Spring Bean...400/300
Tomato...180/140

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES EUROPEAN MINISTER OF COOPERATION: Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Saturday received the European Minister of Cooperation and Finnish Minister of Trade Ole Norrback along with Jordanian Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb. Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Norrback reviewed Jordanian-Finnish relations in all fields, the Jordanian-European partnership and issues of common concern. They also discussed hindrances to the Middle East peace process and the need to urge Israel to abide by its agreements with the Palestinians (Petra photo)



Suspect in children's murder retracts confession

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mazen Hani Masri, 34, who, in September, confessed to killing his two children, Saturday entered a plea of not guilty to all charges, claiming that his statements were fabricated.

"All confessions (in front of the criminal prosecution) were a fantasy of my own mind, and I will state my reasons for these false statements later on," he told a packed court room. Mr. Masri is standing trial at the Criminal Court on charges of poisoning his children, Hanin, eight, and Hani, six, in their Abu Onizah Housing Complex apartment in Shmeisani on Sept. 11.

He faces two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted murder by Criminal Court prosecution.

Mr. Masri, appeared pale and tense behind the bars of his confinement cage in the high-security courtroom.

As the court clerk enumerated details of his children's death, taken from the prosecution charge sheet, the defendant's eyes filled with tears. Defense Attorney Ahmad Najdawi subsequently asked the court to place Mr. Masri under medical observation to determine whether his client was mentally fit to stand trial.

However, the court tribunal, presided over by Judges Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, Ismael Hmouz and Mifteh Moubaidin, rejected Mr. Najdawi's request, maintaining their conviction that the defendant was mentally stable.

"Mr. Masri... was perfectly capable of comprehending charges against

him and answered our questions [comprehensibly]," Judge Tawfiq stated in explanation of the stipulated refusal.

Following the conclusion of the 30-minute session, Mr. Masri asked the court's permission to avow his wife's innocence in terms of any media accusation published against her following his confession.

"I assure everyone that my wife is faithful, devoted, and loyal, and that all accusations either voiced or published are false," Mr. Masri told the court.

Mr. Masri was referring to rumours which surfaced following his arrest and confession on Sept. 25, suggesting that he was not the biological father of Hanin and Hani and nor was he even able to father progeny and gave this as a possible motive for the children's death.

Criminal Court Prosecutor Abdul Aziz Rawashdeh, in a recent interview with the Jordan Times, also dismissed these rumours, stating that medical tests established that Mr. Masri was, indeed, capable of procreation.

"According to the prosecution charge sheet, Mr. Masri began to evidence familial difficulties three months after his 1987 marriage.

He told investigators that he faced financial constraints as well, subsequent to the birth of his second child, Hani.

According to the charge sheet, in his confession, the defendant blamed his wife for financial difficulties, claiming that she was "extravagant and refused to help him in his business" which he had established in 1991.

The prosecution cited "jealousy" as a further motive for the children's

murder. This, they explained, stemmed from his spouse's reportedly paying more attention to his children than to him and the children's alleged preference for their mother.

"Mr. Masri decided to get rid of his children in order to live alone with his wife," the prosecution charged.

The two children were found collapsed in their apartment by their mother, Hiam Hamoudet, upon her return home after giving her husband a ride to work in the early morning.

Ms. Hamoudet rushed her children to a nearby hospital where Hani was declared dead on arrival, while Hanin died shortly afterwards.

Forensic experts detected cyanide and determined that this toxin was responsible for the children's death.

In his confession, Mr. Masri told investigators that he purchased the cyanide pills during a two-week business trip to Canada.

He also stated that on the morning of Sept. 11, he gave his two children the two cyanide pills instead of the vitamin pills which he routinely administered.

A close friend of the family Saturday told the Jordan Times that Ms. Hamoudet, who originally filed the case against her husband, may drop charges.

If these charges are dropped and if Mr. Masri is convicted the verdict may be reduced by half.

The court tribunal set, Dec. 4 to hear the testimony of pathologist Mohammed Hadidi's as well as other prosecution witnesses in the case.

Two subpoenaed for slander, inaccuracy in reporting

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A former weekly tabloid editor and a reporter have been called to stand trial at the Amman Court of First Instance in the next few weeks on charges of slander and inaccuracy in reporting.

Usamah Ermemin, a reporter at the weekly tabloid Al Bilad, was Saturday called for questioning by Prosecutor General Jamal Zoughby's office after the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) filed a complaint regarding an article published in the Aug. 28, 1996 issue of Al Bilad.

Khalid Kasasbeh, former editor of the weekly newspaper, failed to appear at Mr. Zoughby's office as, according to sources, he migrated to the United States.

Charges pressed against Messrs. Kasasbeh and Ermemin include lacking objectivity and honesty in news reporting, publishing inaccuracies, slandering individuals and tarnishing the reputation and dignity of public employees and their offices.

The news item in question, according to Mr. Zoughby, was entitled "A mysterious disease is attacking JPRC employees," and which stated that

thousands of JPRC employees were living in terror following the outbreak of a deadly disease which claimed the lives of three employees.

The article further charged that the environment surrounding the company was filled with a deadly nuclear radiation and responsible for these deaths as well as an additional 46 employees who were also suffering from the "mysterious disease."

The newspaper claimed that the company's administration was preparing itself for a press conference to clarify the situation.

According to Mr. Zoughby, the defendant, Mr.

Ermemin, was unable to provide any source or evidence to support his allegations in the publication.

On the other hand, Mr. Zoughby maintained, the JPRC presented the prosecution with the proper documents which indicated that the company's health department possessed no records of employees in treatment for any disease related to their working environment.

He said that the prosecution has completed its investigations and the case was transferred to the First Instance Court where a date will be set within few days to start trial procedures.

German delegation discusses agricultural production

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat Saturday thanked Germany for its continued assistance in financing and implementing the Kingdom's development programmes and further stated hopes that Bonn will maintain its aid to Jordan especially in the agricultural sector.

During a meeting with a visiting German delegation, led by Herbert Zehlmann, a senior official in the Federal German Ministry for Economic and Technical Cooperation, Dr. Shneikat said that Jordan hopes that Germany will help in its quest for an increased food production as well as the modernisation of farming systems and improved utilisation of natural resources.

Mr. Zehlmann, who heads for the West Bank Sunday, joined with Dr. Shneikat in a general appraisal of the progress and issues pertaining to German-Jordanian agricultural cooperation.

Through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the German government has provided the agricultural sector with more than \$25 million worth of loans and grants as well as technical assistance.

This assistance covers agricultural extension services, management of water resources, pest removal, agricultural engineer and veterinary training and provision of consultancy services.

Mr. Zehlmann was received Thursday by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and expressed his approval of Jordan's success in implementing the economic reform programme.

Activists regret increase in cigarette usage

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Anti-smoking activists are protesting against authorities, who, they claim, are not enforcing anti-smoking legislation.

According to the President of the Jordanian Society for Smoking Prevention Mohammed Shraim, smoking is still not banned in public places in most developing countries and it is the children who suffer the most grievous consequences.

Jordan was one of the first Arab countries to enact laws for public health protection against ill effects caused by smoking. Dr. Shraim said, adding that such legislation was ratified in 1977 and is still not sufficiently observed.

Many countries are currently fighting smoking by forbidding it in most public places and raising tobacco taxes.

Thailand and Singapore are considered smoke-free zones with fines of up to \$50 for those who smoke in public areas.

In America and Western Europe, it is obligatory upon production of any cigarette pack that it include, on the cover, a regulatory-size warning written in bold letters.

Dr. Shraim stated that while it is fairly easy to tell adults about the dangers of smoking, children are harder to convince, especially when they see their parents, teachers and friends smoke.

He said that his research has shown that most children start smoking from

ages 9-12 due to what he terms "unintentional encouragement" to partake in the habit.

Despite years of anti-smoking warnings and campaigns, in the Arab world, the percentage of smokers is increasing by an annual 1-2 per cent while in the United States and Europe tobacco use is decreasing by the same percentage, a WHO study showed.

The study said that people over 15 years of age in the Arab world increased their cigarette intake from an annual 1,150 to 1,400 cigarettes in 1995, while in the West the amount decreased from 2,800 to 2,400 cigarettes per person during the same time period.

Smoking is considered a primary addiction followed by heroin, crack (a more potent form of cocaine, usually smoked) and cocaine, alcohol and tranquilisers, yet there is evidence that once one quits smoking, benefits are immediate and that those who manage to quit before developing serious complications avoid many mortal risks associated with tobacco use.

Cigarette smoking is responsible for 35 per cent of all cancer cases and 50% of teenagers who commence smoking today can project an early mortality due, in great part, to their habit.

A 1995 Jordanian study demonstrated that 28 per cent of the population smokes, 48 per cent of whom are male and 10 per cent female, while in the United States and Western Europe the average of

women who smoke has been shown to be slightly higher than that of men.

Studies have indicated that the rationale behind the disparity could be attributed to the linkage of smoking and slenderness in the minds of many as young women embark on deadly diets of cigarettes in pursuit of unrealistic physical ideals.

Although as of yet there is no evidence which substantiates the theory that smoking has any direct role in weight reduction, smokers do tend to weigh less than non-smokers as nicotine suppresses the appetite mechanism and smoke inhalation increases metabolism.

Studies suggest that the average weight gain upon smoking cessation is 3-6 kilos, yet the health risks of continuing the habit is reportedly equal to health risks of gaining more than 45 kilograms.

Millions of dollars are spent on advertising in Europe and America to attract new recruits and certain studies have alleged that cigarette companies are responsible for the deaths of 100,000 customers each year.

In Columbus' voyage to what was then termed the New World, he saw Native Americans hum tobacco leaves and inhale the smoke and thus he brought leaves back with him to Europe from where it was introduced globally.

Dr. Shraim stated that in Jordan, smoking costs the society an estimated annual JD 500 million, 76 per cent of which must be covered by the government.

Future quality of Kingdom's water supply questioned — professor

By Christina Schlegl
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The quality of Jordanian water resources is degrading rapidly, Elias Salameh, Professor of Hydrology at the University of Jordan told the Jordan Times, presenting his recently published study on the same topic.

"The rapid degradation of the country's water quality and the resultant impact on the environment, economy and future generations' resource base are the subjects of Dr. Salameh's recent book, 'Water Quality Degradation in Jordan,' published in cooperation with the German non-governmental organisation (NGO) Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

"The book," according to Dr. Salameh, "discusses the degradation of Jordan's water quality as well as economic losses due to the degradation of the same whether the losses are on a public or private level."

"It is not the water quantity, but its worsening quality that will bring us to our knees," the author stated in the book's preface.

This fact, Dr. Salameh said, is not only due to active pollution by different sources such as industrialisation or irrigation projects, but is also a result of over-exploitation of aquifers leading to their salinisation.

According to Dr. Salameh, an estimated 275 million cubic metres of ground water in Jordan are annually renewable, but the Kingdom is currently extracting more than 550 million cubic metres per annum, which means a shortage of at least 275 million cubic metres.

This circumstance, he explained, leads to the over-exploitation of aquifers and thus causes salinisation. Jordan's drinking water quality, in general, the author said, is good but during interrupted pumping, leaking

pipes allow substances to enter the system and contaminate water supply facilities.

One of the main alleviating measures suggested in the book is the reduction of water used for irrigation in the Kingdom's highlands, where the agricultural output, according to the author, does not justify the water usage.

"If the water situation in the country remains at its current level, we will very soon have salinised aquifers and polluted water which cannot be utilised for anything," Dr. Salameh admonished.

The Jafr and Dhulcil area, he said, are already facing such a problem. He cited an experience in the Azraq district, where aquifers were depleted and the remaining sources were salinated.

Steps currently being taken by the government to prevent this sort of situation are: the prohibition of drilling new wells and the introduction of a fee for industries which use ground water.

Moreover, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAO) is conducting a project to measure discharge stemming from different wells.

As the use of water for irrigation purposes is still free of charge, Dr. Salameh suggested considering drastic steps such as curbing irrigation either directly or through high water prices to stop the misuse of irrigation water, stating that approximately 630 to 650 million cubic metres of water are being used annually for this purpose.

This number, the author said, can be reduced without jeopardising the agricultural sector.

"Regional (agricultural) projects in the highlands, which mainly serve local communities with agricultural outputs, should remain as they are but the efficiency of water usage has to be improved," Dr. Salameh main-

tained. As an example of greater efficiency in water usage, he cited the current project at AL al Bayt University, where treated wastewater in combination with accumulated rainwater, is used for irrigation.

The project began over two years ago and is, according to the author, a very successful example of water pollution management efficiency.

Water pollution prevention aims at the attainment of sustained use of water resources, satisfying the basic needs of the population for a clean, adequate water supply and the achievement of an environmentally healthy situation in all that concerns water extraction, use, treatment of waste water and its reuse.

However, water degradation is not only a "health" problem but an economic one as well.

The dilemma can be economically approached by evaluating economic losses due to the degradation of water resources or their complete loss; i.e., the cost incurred to reduce or eliminate degradation causes (for example treating pollution at the source) or by calculating the cost of damages due to degradation of water resources (decreasing productivity of irrigation water due to increasing water salinity).

Summarising the conclusions of his book, Dr. Salameh stated "if we continue with the over-exploitation of aquifers and the pollution of national water resources our ground water will deplete and degrade, so that what remains will not be satisfactory to meet the Jordanian people's requirements."

The situation, he concluded, is getting worse every year and a crisis situation will arise if this degradation is intensified by a drought year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Till We Meet Again" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

* "Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644355), until Dec. 31.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography exhibition by Lily Bundak entitled "Images of the Arab World" at the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association, exhibition hall, Sweifeh, until December 1.

* Works by Arab artists in Spain Zafer Adnan, Issam Ta'i, and Hakan Sa'di at Orfali Art Gallery, Umia Utheina, until Dec. 3.

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At least 26 reportedly killed on day of Algerian vote

PARIS (R) — At least 26 Algerians were killed in bomb attacks and in clashes between Islamic rebels and security forces during voting for a new constitution Thursday, an Algerian newspaper reported Saturday.

Al Watan newspaper, usually well informed on security matters, said the deadliest attack was in the western town of Relizane where a bomb killed at least 11 voters and wounded more than 20.

Newspaper reports contradicted official statements that voting had passed peacefully across the country thanks to heavy deployment of the security forces. Algeria's interior minister declared Friday that voting

had been completely free of violence despite threats by Islamic militants to disrupt the referendum.

One bomb exploded in a cafe shop in Baraki, a guerrilla stronghold in Algiers, killing at least two people and wounding 20 others. Arab-language daily Al Khabar said.

Ten Muslim rebels were shot dead in battle with security forces in the garrison town of Blida, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, said Al Watan.

Two other guerrillas were killed in Al Euma village, some 40 kilometres east of Algiers, in an encounter with government forces, said Al Watan adding that a civilian was killed in a rebel attack in the same town.

Liberte newspaper said security forces defused several bombs in towns surrounding the Algerian capital and in the coastal town of Tizi-Ouzou, 90 kilometres east of Algiers.

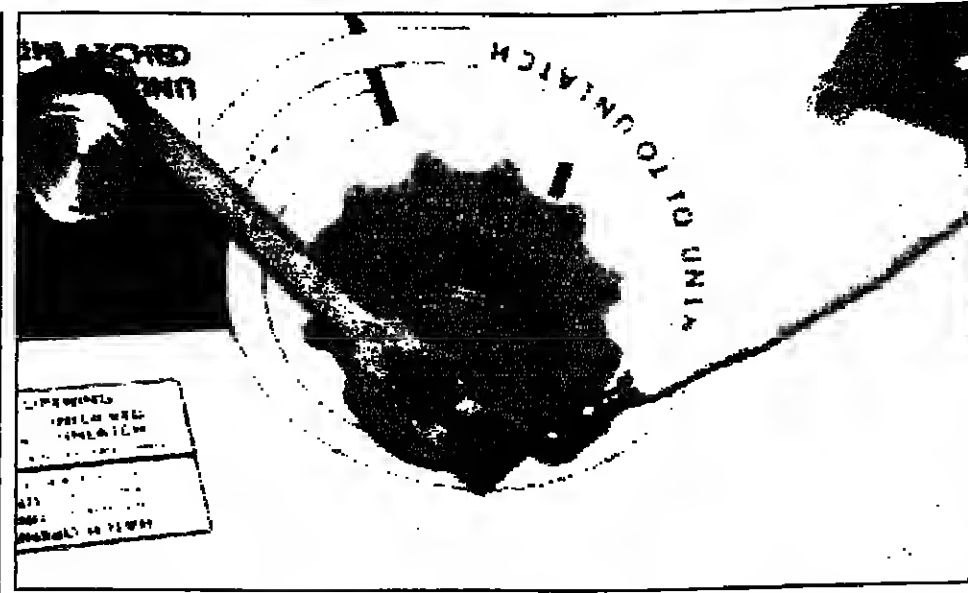
According to official figures, 85.8 per cent of voters backed President Liamine Zeroual's proposed constitution which bans Islamic parties and strengthens the president's powers.

Liberte blasted the government for its failure to thwart the attacks on the voting day and it said such violence mocked the authorities' repeated claims that they had the upper hand in the struggle against the rebels.

"How do you explain when the government said the terrorism is residual, a significant event like the fact that the referendum has been enmeshed with attacks," asked Liberte.

Liberte was referring to a statement by Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia who said recently the government forces had won the battle against Muslim rebels and guerrillas "residual terrorism" would be wiped out in the near future.

More than 60,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since 1992 when the authorities annulled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.



Close-up view of the jammed airlock hatch aboard the space shuttle Columbia. A space-walk to practice with space station construction tools has been cancelled, because the hatch controls the door that must be used by the astronauts to leave the spacecraft. Most of the mechanism is on the cargo bay side of the door, making any attempt to repair the hatch more difficult (Reuters photo)

Space walk is off until shuttle hatch fixed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — NASA ruled out a space walk from the shuttle Columbia Friday so engineers could continue to investigate why a hatch jammed, blocking Thursday night's planned outing by two astronauts.

Tammy Jernigan and Tom Jones were to have spent more than 5½ hours in space Thursday night to practice space station construction. However, they were unable to turn the handle that opens the hatch leading into the shuttle's cargo bay.

"Today is a no eva (space-walk) day," Mission Control's Dominic Gorie told the astronauts Friday after waking them shortly before 4 p.m. est (2100 GMT). "We are continuing evaluating the different options we've got."

If a solution to the stuck hatch is found, a space walk could be attempted as early as Saturday, Jeff Bantle of NASA's Mission Operation said. Mission managers planned to discuss the problem again at 9 a.m. est (1400 GMT) Saturday.

Engineers at the Johnson Space Centre, home to

NASA's Mission Control in Houston, pored over television pictures of the hatch's latching mechanism Friday, looking for signs of trouble.

The most likely explanation was that two of the six latches on the door were misaligned, Mr. Bantle said at a news conference Friday. The latches could be out of adjustment by as little as one-20,000th of an inch.

Warming the door in the sunlight or applying air pressure between its seals were among the possible solutions, but engineers were proceeding with caution.

"We don't want to rush in and do something that ... (will) have worse consequences," Mr. Bantle said. "Right now we're in a very safe configuration."

There was concern that if the hatch was opened, it might prove just as difficult to close. The doorway must shut with an airtight seal for astronauts to safely return to the shuttle's cabin.

"We may decide we don't want to mess with the door any more," Mr. Bantle said.

The astronauts ran into trouble when they tried to

9:15 p.m. est Thursday (0215 GMT Friday). They tugged at the handle, tried getting extra leverage by putting their feet on the ceiling, and fitted a new handle — all without success.

The two dejected astronauts hung up their space suits after struggling with the handle for more than two hours.

It was the first time there had been problems opening the shuttle's outer hatch. It was the second time in the 15-year shuttle programme that NASA has been forced to cancel a space walk.

A stuck hatch on a shuttle flight to service the Hubble Space Telescope or visit Russia's space station Mir could ruin an entire mission.

"Make no mistake we will understand this problem, whether it is in-flight or when we get back on the ground, and make sure that with missions that are even more critical we don't have this problem again," Mr. Bantle said.

Columbia was due to return to Earth at the Kennedy Space Centre on Dec. 5.

Russian Duma protest over Chechenya fizzles

Moscow (AP) — Parliament's threats to topple Boris Yeltsin and his cabinet over Russia's withdrawal from Chechenya proved empty Friday when it wound up mustering votes only for a mild rebuke.

The president is likely to ignore the resolution passed by the State Duma, or lower house of parliament.

The Communist-dominated body asked Mr. Yeltsin on a 241-41 vote to reconsider his recent order for the last Russian troops to withdraw from Chechenya, which they earlier blasted as a surrender.

Earlier this week, legislators had threatened to launch impeachment proceedings against Mr. Yeltsin and vote no confidence in the cabinet.

Carrying out their dire threats would likely have cost the lawmakers their seats. Under the constitution, the president is entitled to respond to no-confidence votes by dissolving the parliament instead of the cabinet.

Clearly unwilling to risk their jobs, Gennady Zyuganov's Communist faction met Friday morning and decided to steer clear of a no-confidence vote.

Speaking in parliament later, Mr. Zyuganov avoided direct attacks on Mr. Yeltsin, who defeated him in the presidential election in July, and instead targeted his aides for last week's final withdrawal order.

"They slipped this decree to the president, who hasn't recuperated yet," Mr. Zyuganov said in a reference to Mr. Yeltsin's rehabilitation from his Nov. 5 quintuple bypass surgery.

Even fiery ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who briefly called for both impeachment and a no-confidence vote, concentrated most of his ire on the Chechen rebels rather than the Kremlin.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy suggested that the Chechens be punished by putting up an "iron fence" around them, so they "have nothing to eat but their Kalashnikov assault rifles."

Several government officials defended Mr. Yeltsin's order and said there was nothing improper about it.

Even Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, whose troops have borne the brunt of the fighting and who opposed the withdrawal, said he was ready to get his men out of Chechenya.

He acknowledged that the ministry, which has combat forces as well as police, could "not concentrate on fighting crime" while it was pouring resources into the war with Chechen separatists.

Mr. Yeltsin ordered the last remaining army brigade and brigade of Interior Ministry troops out of Chechenya. They are expected to be gone before Jan. 27, when Chechenya is to elect its new president.

Units of the army's 205th Motorized Brigade were scheduled to begin leaving Friday.

Two candidates have announced for the Chechen presidential race. One is a notorious field commander who led a bloody hostage raid in southern Russia, Shamil Basayev. The other is Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the current Chechen president, who ascended to the post after Dzhokhar Dudayev was killed in a Russian raid.

The separatists have been in control of Grozny, the Chechen capital, since they drove out Russian troops last summer in a major offensive. The fighting halted in late August with a series of peace agreements.

Work starts on shutting down Chernobyl Reactor No.1

Work starts on shutting down Chernobyl Reactor No.1

MOSCOW (AFP) — Work began early Saturday to shut down reactor Number 1 at the Chernobyl Power Station in Ukraine, site of the world's worst atomic accident a decade ago. Echo Moscow radio reported.

Workers began removing fuel from the reactor at 8:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) and were to close it down entirely at about 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT). Chernobyl security head Stanislav Shekstel's said.

Ukrainian authorities have promised to close by 2000 the whole Chernobyl plant, where the Number 4 reactor blew up and spewed radioactive over much of Europe in April 1986.

Number 1 reactor, which western experts say is crumbling and has worn-out fuel tubes, is the first scheduled to shut down.

According to schedule, only Number 3 reactor is scheduled to keep working up to 1999.

However, Friday, the State Committee for Atomic Energy announced that the station's Number 2 reactor, which was shut down in 1991 after a fire, would be restarted in late 1997.

Ukraine has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Group of Seven industrialised countries on shutting down the Chernobyl plant, which is still considered a major menace.

However, Kiev regularly threatens to renege unless it receives more help from the International Community to compensate for the lost electric power and costs in carrying out the shutdown.

The use of Number 2 would enable Ukraine to finance maintenance work on Number 1 and on the Sarcophagus covering the remains of Number 4, Ukrainian officials said.

The Sarcophagus, which seals off the melted-down remains of the disaster reactor, is said by experts to be leaking and far from sufficiently strong.

An official in charge of the Sarcophagus, quoted by ITAR-TASS, said Friday that it was "a potential danger."

In September, Ukrainian officials detected an "abnormal" rise in the neutron level at the Sarcophagus. Although officials could not explain the phenomenon, they said it was not nearly enough to spark a new explosion.

Ukraine has even considered a proposal to bury the whole reactor rather than place a second Sarcophagus over the present one.

But given Ukraine's energy problems and the approaching winter, officials were not even sure whether Number 1 would not be switched back on after repairs.

Tibetans, police scuffle outside Chinese embassy in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Some 100 Tibetans scuffled with police here Saturday as they tried to storm the Chinese embassy to protest against a visit by President Jiang Zemin, who spent the day admiring the Taj Mahal.

A few Tibetans stoned the embassy's huge white gates after surprising a police contingent guarding the mission in New Delhi's diplomatic district of Chanakypuri on the third day of Jiang's trip to India.

A few of the young protesters suffered bruises as policemen dragged away some 25 Tibetans in hurriedly-summoned police vans.

The sudden demonstration started when a group of 10 Tibetans boys and girls ran towards the embassy, diverting the attention of the police towards them.

In the meantime, the other protesters who had reached the site in buses sprinted towards the Chinese embassy and tried to storm it, but were quickly overpowered by the police.

"Jiang Zemin die, die," the protesters screamed and burned a Chinese flag as the police fought with the Tibetans, some of whom threw stones at the embassy.

The Tibetans then blocked traffic on a road through the Diplomatic Avenue, forcing

the police to seek reinforcements.

It was the third straight day of anti-Chinese protest by Tibetan exiles in the Indian capital.

"We were not expecting this. We had no information," a Chinese diplomat said from the barricaded embassy.

Chinese securitymen were seen videotaping the protest.

Police said the rally will not change Jiang's schedule which includes a reception at the Chinese embassy and a farewell meeting with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma. He leaves for Pakistan early Sunday.

The Chinese president spent the day in the northern town of Agra where he described the Taj Mahal as a "treasure of the human race."

Jiang spent an hour at the mausoleum built by Moghul Emperor Shahjahan. "It shows wisdom of the Indian people, a treasure of the human race," the Chinese leader wrote in the visitors' book at the Taj Mahal.

"This is a real historical lesson for me," he told reporters.

Jiang, accompanied by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Indian officials, looked keenly interested as he went around the white-

marble monument, accompanied by an Indian guide. Jiang arrived in the northern town, 250 kilometres south of New Delhi, early Saturday. He visited the national museum after returning to the Indian capital.

The police put a security ring around the Taj Mahal to prevent possible protests by Tibetan exiles who have staged several demonstrations in India to denounce Jiang's visit.

India and China Friday signed a pact to cut troops and heavy armaments along their mutual border, agreed to freeze cross-border military flights and to avoid the use of force against each other.

The border deal between China and India, who fought a brief border war in 1962, was followed by an assurance from Beijing that it would not transfer nuclear weapons or technology to New Delhi's arch-rival Islamabad.

China and India, which broke off relations for 14 years following their 1962 war, has also signed three other agreements.

Two Tibetan organisations said the border pact, signed in the presence of Jiang and Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, was not acceptable.

U.S. abortion clinic killer apparently commits suicide

BOSTON (R) — An anti-abortion crusader convicted last March of murdering two receptionists at women's health clinics apparently committed suicide in his cell at a maximum security prison Friday, prison officials said.

John Salvi, 24, who shot seven health care workers — including the two who died — in the Boston suburb of Brookline, was serving a sentence of more than two life terms for the worst violence at abortion clinics in the nation.

The warden of the Cedar Junction State Prison in Walpole said Salvi appar-

ently put a plastic garbage bag over his head and tied it with a shoelace sometime after 5 a.m. and before 6 a.m. (1000 GMT to 1100 GMT) Friday.

Preliminary results of the autopsy were consistent with asphyxiation, according to warden Ronald Duval.

Salvi's lawyer J.W. Carney told reporters earlier Friday his client's suicide "was not unexpected, given that he was a seriously ill young man suffering from mental illness that was not being treated and was not being medicated."

Mr. Carney claimed that Salvi had been beaten by

fellow prisoners.

Salvi was found in his cell, one of 44 in the complex, shortly after 6 a.m. est (1100 GMT) and taken to a medical clinic where personnel tried to revive him. Said Nina Flaherty of the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office.

He was officially pronounced dead at 6:55 a.m. (1155 GMT). Mr. Duval said Salvi had a visitor on Thanksgiving Day, but prison officials had not yet discussed the visit with that person, whom they did not identify.

Mr. Carney said the visitor was a family member.

Mother Teresa could face electric shock therapy after heart operation

CALCUTTA (AFP) — Nobel Peace laureate Mother Teresa was "doing fairly well" in hospital here Saturday, a day after a life-saving heart operation, but could still undergo electric shock therapy, a doctor said.

A.K. Chatterjee, part of the medical team at the B.M. Birla Heart Institute here, said efforts would be made to treat the 86-year-old Roman Catholic nun's irregular heartbeat as soon as possible.

"We will try to do it with medication as the first option, then use slight electric shocks if that doesn't work," he said.

A medical bulletin said her health was "stabilising" after Friday's angioplasty, a

medical technique relying on a miniature balloon to clear blocked arteries.

It added: "Mother Teresa is doing fairly well this morning, but is still not out of danger."

Dr. Chatterjee said: "She is conscious, alert, smiling and arguing with the medical staff."

"I entered her room and she said 'I am ready to go home. I am absolutely fine.' The Albanian-born missionary, who has spent almost 50 years working in the Calcutta slums and won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in 1979, was taken to Woodlands Hospital Friday following heart failure, before being switched to the heart institute.

Patricia Aubanel, an American cardiologist helping the medical team here, revealed Friday Mother Teresa had had a heart attack and would have died without Friday's operation.

Dr. Aubanel, who carried out identical heart operations on Mother Teresa in 1991 and 1993, said Friday: "If we had not intervened she would have died, 100 per cent. I have treated Mother Teresa many times before and this was her worst crisis."

She said Mother Teresa, who was persuaded to undergo the operation after being told by doctors it could allow her to return to her work, was recovering well but was not out of danger.

ASEAN summit ends with no decision on time of Burma's admission

JAKARTA (AFP) — Leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) held off a decision Saturday on when to admit military-ruled Burma while affirming their commitment to an expanded South East Asian community.

An informal summit of the seven ASEAN member states ended with an expression of their "strong commitment" to realising an ASEAN comprising all 10 South East Asian countries, including Burma, Cambodia and Laos.

"As to the actual timing of the admission of the three, this will be announced in due time," according to a statement released to the press after the one-day meeting, which said all three would be admitted simultaneously.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said no compromise was involved in the decision to admit the three future members together.

Cambodia and Laos had been seen as potential early entrants.

"It is a matter of being judicious and prudent," Mr. Mahathir said.

"It could be regarded as slowing down the admission of Cambodia and Laos

or speeding up the admission of Myanmar," he told reporters. Myanmar is the official name for Burma.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas declined to say when the three could be admitted, saying: "You can draw your own conclusions."

However, the internal political situation in military-ruled Burma had nothing to do with the delay in announcing a date, he said.

"Burma's internal political matters have never, will never and should never be a criterion for membership," Mr. Alatas said.

The issue of Rangoon's entry had been seen as the foremost topic at the first informal summit of ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Summit leaders also met with their counterparts from Burma, Cambodia and Laos to find out the extent of their preparedness to become full members.

A virtual certainty just a few months ago, Burma's entry has posed problems since the ruling military junta launched its latest crackdown on political dissent.

Indonesia and Malaysia favour the early admission

of Burma, while Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines advocate caution.

Several Western countries led by the United States have joined human rights activists in trying to convince ASEAN to hold off accepting Burma due to Rangoon's refusal to allow democracy and alleged human rights abuses.

Mr. Mahathir dismissed suggestions that ASEAN had bowed to Western pressure in delaying Burma's admission. "We are not in the business of assuring Western countries ... We are sure, that's enough. We don't care what others think," he said.

Mr. Alatas said Burma, like Cambodia and Laos, would be participating in ASEAN activities as an observer state until their admission date is finalised.

The three countries would have to go through normal technical processes before their entry, including a demonstration of their ability to integrate with an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), he said.

Officials said earlier that the search for common ground on Burma's entry may have to be put off until a foreign ministers' meeting next July in Kuala Lumpur.

Burmese media blasts Clinton for slander

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burma's state-run newspapers Saturday said U.S. President Bill Clinton was a destructive element who has slandered and insulted the country.

A commentary in all three official newspapers reacted to a speech made Tuesday by Mr. Clinton at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University at the end of a 12-day Asia-Pacific visit.

"Let me just tell Clinton that he is of his own volition standing before the signboard 'external destructive element' ... as he has insulted and slandered Myanmar (Burma) to break up tranquility, security and development of the Asian and South East Asia region and

incite enmity between Myanmar and her neighbours," the commentary said.

Burma's military government has launched a "people's desire" campaign that involves erecting signboards across the country with slogans like "crush all external destructive elements as the common enemy" and "oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the state."

In his speech which praised most Asia-Pacific nations for their efforts to bring democracy to the region, Mr. Clinton singled out Burma for its failure to recognise a democratically-elected government, saying it showed Rangoon had no

rule of law.

Mr. Clinton also criticised Burma for being the world's number one opium and heroin producer.

The commentary lashed out at Mr. Clinton for his remarks, and for suggesting to Burma's military rulers that they enter into dialogue with National League for Democracy (NLD) party leader and Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Meanwhile, Burmese authorities resumed Saturday the now customary weekend blockade of the approaches to the house of Ms. Suu Kyi to prevent her addressing supporters in front of her gate.

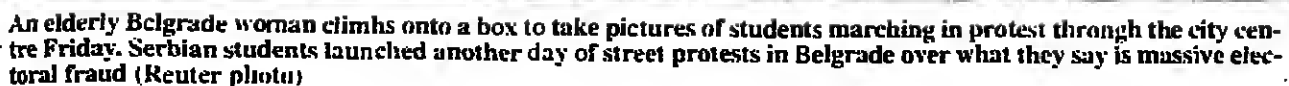
Comoros

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BELGRADE (R) — Opposition leaders and students kept up their campaign to oust Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Saturday with a fresh round of protest marches in Belgrade.

But Mr. Milosevic, accused by the opposition Zajedno (Together) Coalition of robbing them of victory in local elections this month which would have given them control of the capital and other cities, refused to be drawn into public debate.

Large reserve forces of police were marshalled in Belgrade, but in line with the authorities' strategy of not provoking trouble did not interfere with the march, which was being followed by a protest rally in the city centre.

A rerun of the vote in some election wards where

the initial outcome favourable to Zajedno was annulled was due Sunday.

Opposition leaders did not have high expectations that the new vote would go their way and concentrated on keeping the daily demonstrations rolling.

They upped the stakes by threatening to boycott parliament and local councils unless Serbia's parliament, controlled by Mr. Milosevic's Socialists, cancelled the disputed election results when it meets Tuesday.

Local election authorities under the Socialists' control stripped Zajedno of its majorities in most of the towns it won in polling on Nov. 17, citing unspecified "irregularities."

Political analysts say a boycott of the Serbian and Yugoslav federal parlia-

ments by the opposition would be unlikely to affect national politics substantially.

Mr. Milosevic already rules with an authoritarian hand, using the parliament as a rubber stamp to confirm his orders.

But diplomats said the move would further damage his credibility as a legitimate national leader both at home and abroad.

Since Mr. Milosevic signed the Dayton Peace Agreement which ended the war in Bosnia last year, he has worked to recast his image as a peacemaker and guarantor of stability in the Balkans and see the last of international sanctions lifted.

In the latest confrontation, the West has warned him to respect democracy if he

wants rump Yugoslavia, which comprises Serbia and Montenegro, to return to the international community.

His state media has portrayed the opposition coalition as outlaws and provocateurs. Diplomats said Mr. Milosevic, whose police force has kept a low profile, was behind the demonstration campaign across the country would run out of steam.

Privately, Zajedno officials agree that they will probably not win any substantial victory, but insist their tactics have uncovered cracks in his power.

"We have torn off his mask in front of the world to show him as he really is — a small-time Balkan dictator unable to bear the slightest defeat," Zajedno leader Zoran Djindjic said.

MORONI (R) — The authorities in the Comoro Islands Saturday released two passengers detained for a week for questioning about the hijacking of the Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767.

The passengers, Kenyan businessman Michael Odenyo and Djiboutian trade unionist Souleimane Ahmad Mohammadi, survived when the plane crashed into the sea on Nov. 23 but other passengers then

erroneously identified them as hijackers.

"I do not know really what has been more painful — the crash or the incarceration," Mr. Mohammad told Reuters Saturday.

"But we have not been physically tortured," he added.

"They are exonerated and no charge is held against them," public prosecutor Cheikh Salim told Reuters.

The passengers will leave

the Comoros later Saturday on an Emirates flight to Dubai.

Mr. Salim said the co-pilot of the plane, Yonas Mekuria, had managed to identify the bodies of two of the three hijackers among the 125 people killed in the crash. Fifty people survived the accident.

There was no immediate word on when the Comoran authorities would release the bodies to their relatives.

Officials sources said Saturday that the Comoros, a small archipelago state in the Indian Ocean, had turned down U.S. and British requests for access to the flight recorders. The government is waiting for advice on the subject from international civil aviation authorities.

SARAJEVO (Rt — Bosnian Croats are violating the Dayton Peace Accord by expelling Muslims and Serbs from their homes in west Mostar, including one recent victim who is an elderly, handicapped woman, the United Nations said Friday.

Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in December last year, there have been 65 evictions from Croat-held west Mostar.

said Kris Janowski, spokes-

itary uniform who broke in on Nov. 25, carried her to a car and drove her to a square near the Muslim part of Mostar where they dumped her on the street.

Unable to walk, the woman stood on her crutches until she was assisted by a passerby.

On Nov. 27, a 60-year-old couple was evicted and the man beaten up by men in uniform.

"This is totally appalling situation considering that it is

support and 264 million marks (\$172 million) in reconstruction aid.

While the main contest in the 43-month Bosnian war was between Muslims and Serbs, Muslims and Croats also fought a bitter side-show battle for 11 months in 1993-94.

Mostar was the epicentre of that conflict, which saw Croats seize most of Mostar on the west bank of the Neretva River and expel non-Croats from their terri-

"The Serbs and Muslims in west Mostar are second-class citizens. They can't get work and they essentially sit in their apartments for fear of losing them — someone breaking in, changing the locks and taking over the apartment," Mr.

SAKE, Zaire (AP) — Zairian rebels fired assault weapons in force more than 40,000 Rwandan refugees out of their squalid encampment in eastern Zaire and onto a long march home. Refugees gave different accounts of the gunfire that broke out near Minova, 65 kilometres southwest of the border town of Goma. Some said they saw bodies along the road while others said no one was injured. "They started shooting early this morning and told us to start walking to Rwan-

nations Friday to a humanitarian mission to deliver aid to the refugees. In all, about 20 countries are expected to participate in the mission, expected to be a scaled-down version of the military deployment proposed earlier this month before hundreds of thousands of refugees began making it out of Zaire on their own.

Friday's shooting appears to be part of an established pattern of rebels firing warning shots to herd refugees toward Rwanda.

The Zairian rebels, who

in filthy conditions. Aid workers were concerned about disease if the refugees remained there. Rebel leaders have insisted that "no new camps be established in Zaire and said the refugees must return to Rwanda.

Driving alongside the refugees, aid workers spoke on loudspeakers in Kinyarwanda, the language of Rwanda, urging them to continue walking for Rwanda and not to stop. But many appeared very weary under the broiling midday sun.

Burundi

conflict

spreading

NAIROBI (R) — The conflict in Burundi, overshadowed by the fighting in neighbouring Zaire, is spreading rapidly and causing widespread population displacements, a U.N. agency said Saturday.

The World Food Pro-

NAIROBI (R) — The conflict in Burundi, overshadowed by the fighting in neighbouring Zaïre, is spreading rapidly and causing widespread population displacements, a U.N. agency said Saturday.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said the regional committee of east African governments checking sanctions against Burundi has given the agency clearance to take in enough food to feed 30,000 people.

WFP needs the food to cope with a rapidly increasing number of internally displaced people and of refugees returning from Zaïre, it said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Taleban reit

KABUL (AFP) — The Taleban militia are still ready to accept a ceasefire if their conditions were met, a senior Taleban official said Saturday.

"If they (anti-Taleban Alliance) accept a true Islamic government and the exchange of prisoners-of-war, then we are ready for negotiations," the acting minister of information and culture Mullah Amir Khan Muttaqi told AFP.

The anti-Taleban alliance has suffered over the past week a major territorial loss after being pushed back at least 15 kilometres from their previous frontlines.

While vowing that the

Taleban wanted to take the whole of Afghanistan. Mr. Munnagi offered the olive-branch of peace, saying the fundamentalist movement supported U.N. efforts for an Afghan ceasefire.

A U.N.-sponsored ceasefire might be readily acceptable in principle by all warring factions but the difficulty lies in the fact that neither side will accept the conditions of the other, analysts said.

By a true Islamic government the Taleban clearly mean their own rule which will be unacceptable to the anti-Taleban alliance whose own demand for demilitarisation of Kabul is rejected

nal readiness

by the Islamic militia.

The anti-Talebani alliance is composed of ex-Kabul government troops commanded by Ahmad Shah Masood and the Uzbek forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

A highly successful Taleban offensive over the past week has pushed this rival coalition force onto their back-foot and strong defensive lines now seem untenable for Mr. Masood and Gen. Dostum, observers said.

Mr. Muttaqi said the frontlines, some distance forward of the so-called old road village of Kalakan 40

for ceasefire

kilometres north of Kabul, "were calm" Saturday along with the frontlines near the Bagram Air Base, held by the anti-Talebans coalition.

Bagram Air Base, 50 kilometres north of Kabul, lies just off the new road, the second of the two north-bound highways exiting Kabul, where infantry fighting has been less intense than on the old road.

Mr. Muttapi reported continued fighting in western Badghis province.

An offensive by Gen. Dostum's forces in Badghis was reportedly pushed back by the Taleban but no details of the fighting were given.

UNITED NATIONS (R)
— African states have come under increasing pressure to respond to the U.S. veto against Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and come up with other candidates for the

It has been deadlocked since Nov. 19 when the United States cast the sole negative vote in the 15-member body.

about two years. Diplomats said Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi wrote President Bill Clinton a letter two weeks ago urging a compromise, but had received no reply.

is Republican opposition to the United Nations, thereby reducing U.S. influence in the world body because of its \$1.4 billion debt. payments depend on approval by the Republican-dominated

LONDON (R) — The U.S. space agency NASA is working on plans to send six astronauts to Mars within eight years of getting the political go-ahead for a manned mission, the scientist who is running the project said Friday.

Eric McHenry told the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) that he was put in charge of the work after NASA announced earlier this year that evidence of traces of primitive life had been found in a meteorite from Mars.

Mr. McHenry told the BBC's Newsnight programme this was vital be-

"We believe that there will come a point, and earlier probably than later, in which we will want to send humans to the surface of Mars to extend the scientific investigations that the rovers and robots will have performed," Mr. McHenry said.

"Our goal is to do enough technology work that when

Mr. McHenry, who said he believes low-level microbial life exists below the martian surface, said humans would be needed if it became necessary to drill to find and prove this other way.

Mr. McHenry said the real challenge was to shave the cost of sending a manned mission to earth's nearest neighbour in the solar system.

and states that the African nations imposed strict sanctions in July after Tutsi military leader Pierre Buyoya overthrew the country's democratically elected Hutu President, Sylvestre Ntibunganya.

WFP said the sanctions committee had cleared 2,545 tonnes of food a month to replenish WFP's existing food stocks in Burundi, which are nearly exhausted.

The agency will take the food by barge from the Tanzanian port of Kigoma on lake Tanganyika or by truck across land from Tanzania, it said.

Diplomats said several Security Council members did not believe the United States would change its mind on the issue and wanted some movement from the Africans quickly.

After another deadlocked Friday Security Council meeting, its president, Nugroho Wisnurni of Indonesia, said he was asking Cameroon, as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, when it "would be ready to inform the Council members concerning the results of consultations on the matter."

He said he was reminding Cameroon's U.N. delegation that the General Assembly, which has to approve a decision by the Security Council, wanted to adjourn by Dec. 17.

The Council has agreed to give priority to candidates from Africa on the grounds that if Dr. Ghali denied the second term given to his predecessors,

term expires on Dec. 31. But Botswana's U.N. ambassador, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, said that "the most dangerous thing you can do is elect a secretary-general in a hurry."

"We have said that consultations are taking place on the African continent among 53 countries. And you don't expect them to consult in one week, or agree," he added.

Wadsworth also told reporters: "I understand the African countries require sufficient time to do so, because they are 53." But, he said, "There are other members of the United Nations that really are waiting and now they are getting impatient about this process."

He will be replaced as Council president next week by Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy, whose government is pushing for a compromise of keeping Dr. Ghali in office for

died Jacques Chirac, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Indonesian President Subarto all wrote to Mr. Clinton asking him to change his mind on Dr. Ghali. It was not known if they received a reply or if they mentioned a compromise.

But U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said such a deal was out of the question.

"The United States position has been very clear from the very beginning," she said. "We have said we need a new secretary-general and it is our position that no compromise formula is acceptable."

Washington is unable to back openly any candidate because of anger against Washington vetoing Dr. Ghali for his alleged lack of enthusiasm for reform of the world body.

But a more key reason

Behind the scenes the contest appears to be turning into an Anglo-French poker game. France has made it clear that if Dr. Gbali has no chance it wants a "Francophone," presumed to mean an African from a French-speaking country.

So far the only Francophone name on an informal list is Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast's foreign minister who served as president of the General Assembly in 1994-1995. But he spoke little English during his stay in New York, including taking an interpreter on informal lunches with journalists.

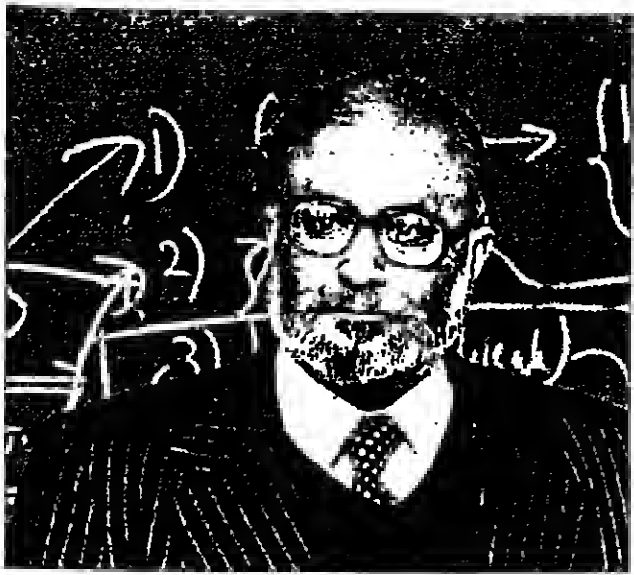
Therefore, diplomats believe a summit between France and African states, mainly Francophone, in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou on Dec. 5 may be crucial in revealing Paris' hand.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused inquiries.

Abdul Salam — a scientist of 'remarkable vision and outstanding enegy'

Professor Abdul Salam, theoretical physicist and Nobel laureate, died on November 14 aged 70. He was born on January 29, 1926.

THE DEATH of Abdul Salam leaves the world of theoretical physics without one of its most distinguished and respected members. Born in Jhang, Pakistan, he was soon to display the outstanding creative ability that was such a consistent feature of his professional career. Indeed, his first published scientific paper was produced at the early age of 17. Undergraduate and postgraduate degrees followed from Government College, Lahore, and from the University of Cambridge.



Abdul Salam

goal of finding a unified approach to the fundamental forces at work in the worlds of nuclear and sub-nuclear physics. In the 1960s Salam was closely involved with the attempts

to construct a theoretically coherent account of the "strong" interactions that bind together the constituents of nuclei. The mathematical techniques on which he worked

at that time provided the foundations of the developments that followed — a sustained programme of research culminating in his construction of a theory that unified the electric and magnetic forces with the "weak" nuclear force responsible for the radioactive decay of elementary particles. The dramatic confirmation of this theory by experiments at the European particle-accelerator facility CERN led to his sharing the 1979 Nobel Prize for Physics with the American physicists Sheldon Glashow and Steven Weinberg. This critical development became the central component of what became known as the "standard model" of the electromagnetic and nuclear forces.

The incorporation of the gravitational field into this unified picture is a notoriously difficult problem and it is no surprise that this is another area to which Salam turned his formidable attention. The solution of this particular issue remains elusive but, working with his long-term collaborator John Strathdee, Salam developed some of the main tools for handling the "superfields" that later became a major ingredient in the development of superstring theory — currently one of the most promising approaches to the problem of adding gravity to the list of unified forces.

In addition to his brilliant intellectual gifts, Salam was a man of remarkable vision and outstanding energy who played a major role in developing science throughout the world. Of particular significance was his success in 1964 in persuading the Italian government and the United Nations to found a research institute for theoretical physics in Trieste, Italy, the prime mission of which was to provide a base for young scientists from the developing countries to carry out research with each other and with visitors from the West.

Salam was the director of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics from 1964 to 1993, and it is a striking tribute to his charismatic and energetic personality that the centre survived, and indeed flourished, notwithstanding the numerous political difficulties that inevitably accompanied an international project of this kind.

Abdul Salam was a member of the Ahmadiyyah branch of the Islamic religion and would sometimes lead prayers for fellow Muslims visiting the centre in Trieste. Although his membership of this particular sect caused some difficulties in his relationships with his home country, he never forgot his natural affiliation with the developing nations. He was also deeply concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons and served on many high-level committees involved in the promotion of international peace and collaboration and in the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Times

The Union Museum — living chronicle of a Romanian ideal

By Dorin Iancu

IT MAY be called a museum, but in fact it is a living chronicle. It is a big hall, with vaults supported by columns and pillars, as in a temple where, on walls and in glass cases, the Romanian ideal, the Union, is expressed. An entire range of buildings in Alba Iulia was dedicated to this ideal. From the Coronation Cathedral to the museum, the structures are those of Romanian folk architecture whose details can be found in monumental art.

Lying in the heart of Transylvania, Alba Iulia was perfect for the task. The Dacian fortress built two thousand years ago was called Apollonia. Later the Roman conquerors established there one of Dacia's greatest centres, slightly changing its Dacian name into Apulum. In the early Middle Ages, the city was called Balgrad, a Slav toponym meaning the White City. Then the name was turned into Alba Iulia, of Latin stock.

The ideal of ancient Dacian inhabitants, the "Great Union", was finally achieved in 1918, after a shorter lived union was made possible by Prince Michael the Brave in

1599. The museum celebrates this important moment in the life of Romanians through documents and photographs, all proof of the nation's will to fulfill the great union act under perfectly democratic circumstances. Exhibited are the six volumes containing the Union documents, bound in leather, in the national colours, as well as the photographs of the Grand National Assembly and papers signed by the great statesmen that made the Union possible.

It took, though, two millennia of hard work, fight and hope before this significant event took place to mark the history of this people living north of the Danube, in the Carpathian Mountains.

In the museum halls history unfolds itself in dramatic snapshots, from the Roman and Dacian Roman lapidary to the tokens of the modern eras. There are two memorable highlights: Michael the Brave, the Wallachian prince (1593-1600), entering Alba Iulia in 1599, when the first political Union of the Romanians took place; and the coronation of Ferdinand I, at Alba Iulia, as king of Romanians.

According to the Union

Act, read by Vasile Goldis, "The Union of Transylvania with the mother country is now achieved for centuries to come."

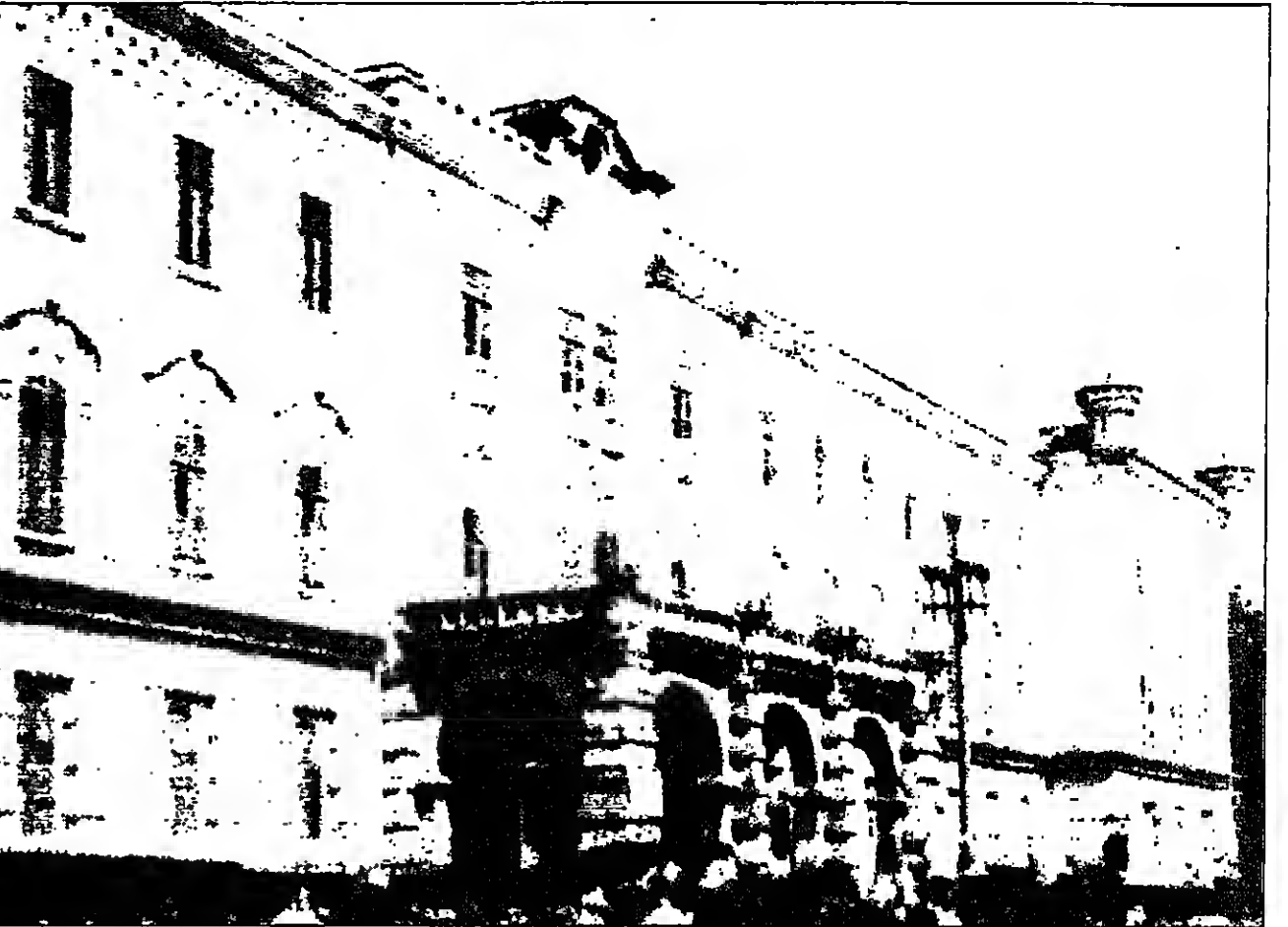
Exhibits stand proof of the chroniclers' and the people's endeavours, of the steadfastness and resolve of the Romanians to be united as one people, with one national identity.

The fortress — Vauban type, built by the Hapsburg Empire on the place of the old Dacian, Roman and feudal cities — reminds of the martyrdom of Horea, Closca and Crisan, the heads of the great peasant uprising of 1784. That revolt, apart from national claims, had an amazingly visionary programme, heralding that of the 1879 French Revolution.

In Alba Iulia one can find living proofs of the Romanians' rich scholarly life throughout history.

At the entrance there is a Latin inscription on a marble plate: "In the year of the Lord 1918, on December 1, the union of the entire Transylvania to Daco-Romania was proclaimed, once and for all, through the solemn and unanimous vote of the people. Eternal be the memory of this act."

The Union Hall (below) and the main facade of the Union Museum (photos by Alexandru Radu)



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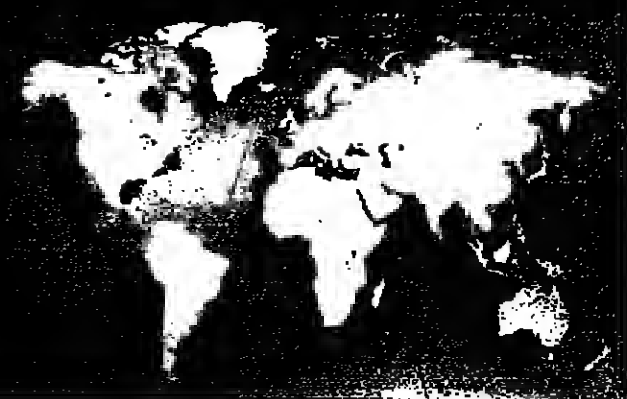
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Socialists unveil harshest budget in 15 years as farmers protest

ATHENS (AP) — The Socialist government has presented what it called the harshest annual budget in 15 years as part of a last ditch effort to bring Greece in line with the rest of the European Union.

Protesting more austerity, thousands of farmers responded by using tractors to block the main north-south highway, and rail link at four separate central points, effectively cutting Greece in half.

Premier Costas Simitis refused to meet with farmers and his government said it has no more room for economic manoeuvring.

"Such statements only serve to inflame thousands of farmers even more," said Ioannis Patris, a protest organizer. He added farmers would not lift blockades "until we have talks and binding promises."

Economy and Finance Minister Yannis Papantoniou said that despite public outcry over austerity there was no choice left to the government but further belt-tightening.

"The government understands the reactions, it expected them as this is the harshest budget in 15 years," Mr. Papantoniou said.

Mr. Papantoniou unveiled the budget in the 300-member unicameral parliament, where the 162-seat Socialist majority is expected to approve it on Dec. 27.

It came one day after the largest labour unions protested



Hundreds of tractors blockade Greece's main north-south road before a toll station outside the town of Larissa. The farmers blocked the national highway near the central town of Larissa with 5,000 tractors, cutting off almost all land traffic between Athens and second city of Salonica in the north (Reuters photo)

the budget and new taxes with a 24-hour nationwide strike that ground the country to a halt.

Mr. Simitis, accused of reneging on pre-election promises, increased direct taxes by 13.4 per cent in the budget and indirect taxes by 16.9 per cent.

Mr. Papantoniou said the budget forecast revenues of 9.5 trillion drachmas (\$39.6 billion), or up 17.5 per cent from this year, and spending of 11.8 trillion drachmas (\$49.2 billion), compared to 10.7 trillion (\$44.6 billion) in 1995.

The ensuing deficit was

expected to be 2.01 trillion (\$8.37 billion), compared to a forecast of 2.75 trillion (\$11.4 billion) this year, while the gross deficit, or the borrowing requirement plus the interest owed, would rise to 2.9 trillion (\$12.1 billion).

Mr. Papantoniou said he hopes to cut the budget deficit to 4.2 per cent of gross domestic product by the end of 1997 and below 3.5 per cent in 1998.

European Monetary Union requirements, which Greece has admitted it will not reach by the end of the century but hopefully early in the 21st, include

trimming the deficit to below 3 per cent of GDP and bringing the total public debt close to 60 per cent of GDP.

According to the budget, the total public debt next year will be 16 per cent higher than total GDP. "We are making attempts to deal with the debts," Mr. Simitis said in parliament.

Although Mr. Simitis promised big public spending cuts, the budget foresees increased expenditures for all ministries, including 105.3 per cent for the Aegean ministry, 14.2 for education and 12.7 for defence.

'Spain will be in at start of EMU'

BONN (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said in an interview released on Saturday he was convinced Spain would be among the first countries to join European Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999.

He said the European Union must avoid the "historic mistake" of not allowing enough countries to join the single currency at the outset.

Mr. Aznar told the German news weekly Der Spiegel he had "no doubt" that Spain would be in the first wave of countries.

"We will be in 1999, out of conviction but also because we have the strength," he said.

Mr. Aznar was asked whether Spain would fulfil the tough economic criteria for EMU membership, and whether he felt Germany's

insistence on economic discipline as the basis for a stable single currency was too tough.

"This year we will reach the intermediate goal we set ourselves on the reduction of the deficit. Now we have passed the 1997 budget. The markets reacted positively, interest rates are lower. For those reasons I am optimistic," Mr. Aznar replied. "I know the Germans are worried about the stability of the euro, and I share those worries. We must all introduce the necessary reforms. I can proudly say that I put forward the toughest budget in the last 20 years of Spanish democracy."

Mr. Aznar rejected the idea that it would be easier to combat Spain's high unemployment without the pressure of the Maastricht criteria.

"We only got into this situation because we didn't feel the pressure of Maastricht," he said. "I'm convinced you can only conquer unemployment when state finances are healthy, inflation is low, the deficit and debt are under control and productivity is high. That's why I like the Maastricht rules." Mr. Aznar who recently irritated Italy by dismissing a suggestion that the EMU criteria could be relaxed and the schedule altered, said it was important that a large number of countries adopt the single currency.

"We must be very careful not to create problems by keeping the number of participants in currency union too small," he said. "That would be a historic error with major repercussions which would be hard to undo."

Morocco will not renew EU fishing accord

RABAT (R) — Morocco said on Saturday it would not renew its three-year fishing accord with the European Union (EU) allowing a fleet of 700 vessels to fish in Moroccan waters.

"The Moroccan government has decided not to renew the three-year fishing accord signed with the European Union earlier this year," a Moroccan official at the Ministry of Fisheries said. But he said Morocco remained "open to other forms of partnership and cooperation in the fishing sector." The accord, initiated in November 1995 after months of wrangling, was finally signed in Brussels in February 1996.

It sets out all the principles, rules and details of fisheries cooperation between Brussels and Rabat, particularly prevention of overfishing and the sale of fish once caught.

World Bank economist blasts Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (R) — World Bank chief economist Michael Bruno blasted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday for a lack of "serious thinking" on economic reforms.

Mr. Bruno, asked by Israel radio to review Mr. Netanyahu's economic performance after nearly six months in office, praised the prime minister's rhetoric on budget cuts and economic liberalisation but said Israel needed action, not talk.

"What stands out in the economy in these 180 days... is that there is talk, talk, and more talk but nothing is being done," Mr. Bruno told the radio.

"The most worrying thing is the double messages we are hearing from the prime minister's office," he said.

Mr. Bruno, who was Bank of Israel governor from 1986 to 1991, attacked Mr. Netanyahu for not following through on repeated calls for capital market reforms and broad economic liberalisation.

He said Mr. Netanyahu's proposals to cut government spending by some seven billion shekels in 1997 to narrow a soaring budget deficit were incompatible with his calls for increased defence spending and promises to coalition partners.

"The talk about raising the defence budget... is simply contradictory. So are the promises he has made to various parties saying 'I won't cut this, I'll find another way'."

"These are all double mes-

sages giving the impression that this thing is unplanned and there has not been serious thinking until the end," Mr. Bruno said.

Mr. Netanyahu this week called for stepped up defence spending in light of tensions with Israel's Arab neighbours which have re-ignited since the right-winger took office in June.

The proposed budget cuts fall mainly on housing and social welfare spending. Members of the prime minister's own coalition have vowed to fight the cuts which they say target the poor.

"In the Israeli economy, you can't make serious budget cuts only in welfare without making them in defence," Mr. Bruno said.

(\$1 = 3.26 shekels)

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLE	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5390	0.5951	1.3040	113.00	1.3510	1514.65	1.7259	6.2260
DE Mark	0.6498	1.0000	0.3536	0.6570	73.94	0.8773	963.54	1.1212	3.3650
GB Sterling	1.6805	2.5680	1.0000	2.1652	191.39	2.2704	2545.37	2.9604	8.7623
CH Franc	0.7669	1.1798	0.4858	1.0000	57.21	1.0256	1161.10	132.30	4.8061
JP Yen	0.0086	1.3512	0.5221	1.1449	1.0000	1.1681	133.30	151.53	4.5662
CA Dollar	0.7402	1.1342	0.4436	0.9588	1.19	1.0000	1124.34	1.2716	3.8425
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0154	0.3924	0.0660	1332.62	0.8914	1.0000	11.39	3.4481
NL Guilder	0.5784	0.8715	0.3445	0.7534	65.91	0.7825	677.35	1.0000	3.0271
FR Franc	0.1914	0.2944	0.1136	0.24926	21.78	0.2584	33.01	33.0100	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.60	23.55
WTI	23.65	23.65
Bony	23.60	23.55
Dubai	20.83	20.88
UL Gas	214.00	214.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2866	0.4106	0.15867	0.34784	30.3711
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41928	0.16201	0.35516	31.0106
KW Dinar	3.3462	5.15198	1.99124	4.38491	361.096
BT Dinar	0.3760	0.4095	1.58253	3.46981	302.939
CY Pound	2.1433	3.2365	1.2746	2.7949	243.908

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	371.3	371.6
Silver (oz)	4.72	4.74
Platinum (oz)	374	375
AL (3 Months)	1529	1530
CU (3 Months)	2242	2243
Zinc (3 Months)	1070	1071
Lead (3 Months)	685	686
NI (3 Months)	6815	6820

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Currency	1 - 3 Months	3 - 6 Months	6 - 12 Months	1 - 2 Years	2 - 5 Years
USD	5.44	5.38	5.41	5.47	5.54
GBP	6.10	6.30	6.50	6.56	6.84
JPY	0.30	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.42
DEM	3.16	3.11	3.14	3.00	3.23
FRF	3.29	3.36	3.41	3.41	3.44
CHF	1.99	1.97	1.96	1.61	2.11
ITL	7.39	7.04	6.60	6.62	6.53

Main Equity Indices					
Bourse	Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High
New York	DOW JONES	6521.7	22.36	0.34	6532.14
New York	S&P 500	757.02	2.02	0.27	758.27
London	FTSE 100	4058	7.6	0.19	4067.6
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21020.36	-15.16	-0.07	21155.2
Paris	CAC 40	2315.66	25.35	1.11	2327.71
Frankfurt	DAX	2645.52	28.03	0.99	2645.52

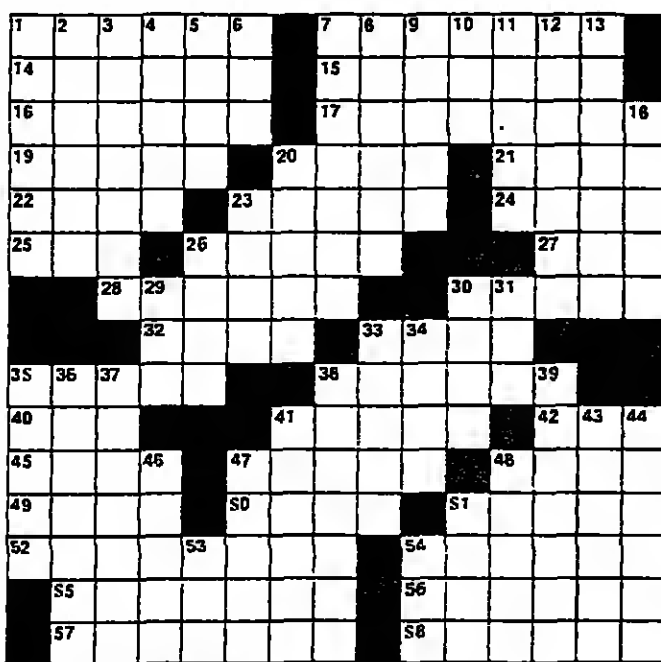
Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	0	Spot
Cocoa (S/ton)	1416	Spot
Sugar (S/ton)	306.9	Spot
Wheat (S/ton)	133	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.66	Spot
Tea (S/lb/kg)	120	Spot
Barley (S/bush)	2.24	Spot
Rice (S/ton)	470	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1661	1.194
DE Mark	0.4569	0.4612
CH Franc	0.5422	0.5449
FR Franc	0.1352	0.1359
JP Yen	0.6205	0.6236
NL Guilder	0.4096	0.4116
IT Lira	0.4668	0.4691

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Landlord
 - Way out there
 - Connected to a computer network
 - Device to ease breathing
 - Rejoiced in
 - Refuse to change
 - Underwater worker
 - Box office draw
 - Sicilian mountain
 - Regular
 - Remove the nusk
 - Corrode
 - Hideout
 - Nautical term
 - Negative
 - Garden city
 - Antagonist
 - Actor Richard
 - Nudnik
 - Fracas
 - Winner's prize
 - Roadhouse
 - Pat
 - Letters
 - Cupid
 - Severe criticisms
 - Pesky insect
 - Spiritually destroyed
 - African country
 - Fool
 - Computer processible into
 - Packed with good humor
 - Wishy-washy
 - Get even for
 - Backdrops
 - Roamed



by Glenon Petgrave

PALP	FROG	LIEAIST
OREO	LAINA	AIMPLIE
MISITATIE	WILPER	
PASITOR'S	COLLEEN	
AWIE	LORIE	RTIS
PIAOILI	MINIDSET	
EMU	TREK	ESTITATE
RIOTIC	ADIAIR	AIIRY
URICHIN	BAISH	NEIE
LI	NICOLN	ETASIED
PIA	MOUE	ARM
REISITAIR	AI	OTIDIED
INISIE	LEGENDAIRY	
ARIETE	AI	VEIR
ME	OIES	WESIT
		TEISIS

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- DOWN**
- Very wealthy
 - Salad addition
 - Slobs
 - Ambulance device
 - Lulu
 - Color
 - Bother
 - Firmly together
 - Sea creature
 - Beachgoer's gain
 - Shrub
 - Sea god
 - Hinge window
 - Not in good shape
 - Coastline
 - Incentive sparker
 - Aid
 - Expression of disgust
 - Catch sight of
 - Utmost degree
 - Television spot
 - Long, long time
 - Area of study
 - Hostile invasions
 - Sage
 - Sad event
 - Craving
 - More in sight
 - Run
 - Fashioned
 - Trite
 - U.S. unit
 - Donated
 - Variable star
 - Roll
 - Liquid container

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be more concerned today with the spiritual side of life since you have been too materialist. Reach a balance in the days ahead and thereby you will discover that you can gain internal peace and contentment for your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Personal aims seem difficult to materialise, however if you keep an aggressive posture towards your career activities, you will notice a prosperous outcome. With time you get good results and notice much success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may find it difficult to get out today from under certain conditions which you do not like. Persevere for fine results in the days ahead and thereby you will gain the admiration of bigwigs and fellow associates.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handle the difficulties which are connected with your personal aims, so that you can receive much success. Try to be more self-reliant and not so dependant upon the opinions or methods of operation of others.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is not a good day today to try to reconcile with one who is an outside fellow associate or ally, otherwise you will notice that you are proceeding backwards. You can await a better day for there to be prosperous results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are studying into new interests today, which is fine, however it is not to take any action just yet since you will have time to spare. Make this evening you can spend some quality time with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to study business methods with fellow associates and determine the best options you have to make any business activities more prosperous. Don't bring up any sore points this evening with the one you love.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may find that a fellow associate today stubborn as you are, so you had better compromise and reach some mutual decision. Later this evening you can go out on the town with close friends and have a wonderful time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may find it difficult to get career activities completed, however keep plugging at them and you will notice favourable results. Improve your health and thereby you can handle any difficult situations with great ease.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you get into amusements with others today, act in a gracious and charming manner and everyone will be happy. Later this evening you can get together with fellow associates and devise a method of operation for being successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study affairs at home today and make sure you do nothing which could disturb your loved ones there. Tonight will be a good time to make arrangements to visit other close friends and have a good time together.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be soothing to an outside fellow associate who is having a rough time and could be quite depressed, thereby in the days ahead you will notice a change in him or her. Later this evening meet with a bigwig and discuss any tasks.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

Irish company pulls plug on proud Dutch Fokker

Gulf states discuss ways to supply gas to Europe

AMSTERDAM (R) — A Northern Irish company that makes wings for Fokker has effectively pulled the plug on over 75 years of proud Dutch plane-making tradition.

Fokker, one of the great names in pioneering aviation history, was declared bankrupt in March after racking up huge losses, but had limped on in the hope of a last-minute rescue.

As Dutch, Russian and

Canadian suitors decided against taking on Fokker, thousands of skilled workers walked away to find jobs elsewhere and deadlines came and went, hopes of salvaging something from Fokker's wreckage rested on takeover talks with South Korea's Samsung Aerospace.

But on Thursday, Samsung told the Dutch government, a minority Fokker shareholder, that it needed

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states are discussing ways to supply natural gas to the European Union (EU) following their recommendations on such sales during a gas conference in Qatar this month, an official said on Saturday.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and their main economic partner, the EU, are planning to carry out a study on how to transport gas to the Europeans as the region has no pipelines, said Anwar Abdulhadi, director of the Oil and Gas Department at the Riyadh-based GCC secretariat.

There are plans now to conduct a study in cooperation with the EU and the industrial sector on the best means to transport natural gas to the EU," Mr. Abdulhadi told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) economic weekly Emirates Today.

Proposals in that study will be presented to the joint energy team, which will meet in the first half of 1997 to discuss such a move and to follow up the implementation of the recommendations at the conference in Qatar," he said.

The GCC, a major oil and gas power, currently does not export natural gas to the EU, which gets most of its supplies from Russia and Algeria.

But the UAE started this year to supply the EU with liquefied natural gas after an expansion in its main LNG complex created a large surplus.

Industry sources said any gasline from the GCC to the EU has to pass through Jordan, Syria and Turkey or under the Mediterranean to bypass Turkish territory. It could also travel through Iraq and Turkey.

The six GCC members — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE — have around 21 trillion cubic metres of natural gas, nearly 15 per cent of the total global gas reserves.

Around one third of the GCC reserves are in Qatar, which experts expect to be the main supplier to the EU as its resources are mostly unassociated with oil, making such supplies much cheaper.

Qatar is also expected to supply some of its partners in the GCC with natural gas through a proposed pipeline distribution network.

"There is a desire by the EU to diversify their gas supply sources and we have a desire to supply the EU with gas," Mr. Abdulhadi said.

He said the gas reserves in the GCC — a 15-year-old economic, defence and political alliance — could last around 200 years.

Daily Business Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Deposits in Jordanian banks rise

DEPOSITS in Jordanian bank have risen by JD 154,700,000 in the first nine months of this year, according to sources at the Central Bank of Jordan. The sources said deposits in Jordanian banks at the end of the third quarter of this year totalled JD 5,942,200,000, compared to JD 5,787,500,000 at the beginning of the year (Al Ra'i).

Jordanian fair opens in Beirut

A JORDANIAN industrial fair was Friday opened in Beirut by Lebanese Economy and Commerce Minister Yassin Jaber. A total of 110 Jordanian companies are participating in the fair, organised by the Jordan Expon Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO). In a statement at the opening ceremony, Mr. Jaber said the fair comes in implementation of a trade agreement signed between the two countries, noting that several Lebanese firms were held in Amman. Expressing hope that the fair will pave the way for holding more such exhibits of Jordanian industries in Beirut, he said the Lebanese government has extended an invitation to the Kingdom to take part in Tripoli International Fair which is being prepared to become a permanent industrial exhibition of products of various world countries. The minister underlined the importance of such fairs, saying they will surely lead to enhancing inter-Arab relations and enabling Arab countries to establish economic integration (Al Ra'i & Al Aswaq).

Factory in service of local community

THE NUMBER of Jordan Cement Factories Company employees who come from the Balqa Governorate totals 700, who represent about 65 per cent of the total number of employees in the company's factory in Fuheis. Factory Director Iffaz Halaseh said the company was keen to interact with and help areas surrounding the factory and to give priority in employment and training to residents of these areas. Mr. Halaseh said the company annually allocates large sums of its annual budgets to help the surrounding areas, especially Al Fuheis city, through providing financial assistance to municipal, cultural and voluntary councils and organisations. During the past nine months, he said, the company provided Al Fuheis and Mahes municipalities with JD 45,000 and helped in establishing several public facilities, including a sports club. He said that the company has allocated JD 24.5 million to supply the factory with equipment needed to protect the environment. (Al Ra'i).

another month before being able to decide whether or not to take Fokker over.

That was the final straw for Belfast-based Shorts, part of Canadian planemaker Bombardier, which makes the wings for Fokker F-70 and F-100 regional jets.

Despite Dutch state pleas and requests for British government intervention, Shorts said it could no longer keep production lines open to supply Fokker wings.

Court-appointed administrators who had been running Fokker on a skeleton staff of 650 for months said it would cost too much and take too long to try and get a deal with an alternative wing supplier and Samsung said it would not bear any additional costs resulting from its delay in making a final decision.

While administrators, government ministers and Fokker workers clung to vague hopes that a white knight may yet ride in to pull Fokker from the brink, the company that developed 125 different kinds of aircraft is expected to deliver its last plane and shut its doors in May.

On Thursday, a tired-looking Hans Wijers, Dutch economic affairs minister, told reporters he could not rule out the possibility of a new bidder emerging, but this was highly unlikely.

"If no serious candidate comes forward then liquidation becomes inevitable at a certain moment," he said.

"But I would add that, whatever happens, aeroplanes will continue to be built until May."

"You must never rule out the possibility of other candidates emerging... But I must say the chances have become much smaller as a result of the events of the last few weeks," he said, adding that if no new candidate did come forward then what was left of Fokker would be broken up and sold off.

Fokker, founded in 1919 by Dutch aviation pioneer Anthony Fokker, is one of the oldest names in the industry and its F27 Friendship Turboprop, launched in 1957, was one of the industry's biggest commercial successes.

But in recent years Fokker struggled to achieve financial stability and swapped industry partners several times.

In 1993 Daimler Benz Aerospace (DASA) paid 686 million guilders (\$398.8 million) for a 51 per cent stake in Fokker but, despite job cuts and tight cost control, depressed world aircraft markets and a weak dollar saw the company sink deeper into loss.

In January 1996, Daimler said it could no longer bear Fokker's huge losses and cut off all financial support, forcing the company into bankruptcy two months later.

For its part, Samsung appears to have missed the chance to resurrect Fokker and use it as a springboard to becoming a major player in the global aerospace industry.

The Dutch government had indicated it would provide fresh capital and help develop a new 125-seat regional jet, but Samsung balked at demands for long-term job guarantees in the Netherlands.

Tietmeyer says no change in German interest rates

BONN (AFP) — The president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, said he sees no reason at present to tinker with the German Central Bank's interest rates, in an interview to appear Monday.

"In the short term, I don't see any reason to modify the rates," Mr. Tietmeyer told the weekly magazine Der Spiegel. But he added that German interest rates may not yet have bottomed out. The Bundesbank's key rates are at their historic lowest level.

"We are of course going to check in the months to come if the interest rates are appropriate, but I see no reason to raise the rates in the foreseeable future."

Mr. Tietmeyer rejected out of hand the recent suggestion by some French politicians and Bank of France insiders that the German mark should come down against the dollar.

He went on to say that he had no objection to the dollar growing "a little stronger," but said the dollar was currently at a more reasonable rate against the mark than it had been in the past.

He defended the strong mark's position in Europe against charges that it made German exports more expensive, arguing that the high level of the currency allowed the country to avoid importing inflation.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - BIRZISANI											
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/11/1996											
LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / R	QTY.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
1 252,500 205,000	ARAB BANK	14.2	3.35	34	6200	1591050	252.50	259.00	6.50	+	+
3,250 8,880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	70.9	0.00	41	26400	28278	1.05	1.08	.03	+	+
2,700 2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.1	6.27	2	500	1110	2.19	2.22	.03	+	+
5,250 4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.7	2.90	7	4165	19555	4.68	4.78	.08	+	+
3,040 2,440	JOR. KOWAT BANK	18.1	0.00	14	40756	102241	2.50	2.50	-	-	-
2,200 2,880	JOR. GULF BANK	5.8	7.22	2	1000	865	.97	.97	-	-	-
4,180 3,380	JOR. ISLANDIC BANK	18.2	0.00	5	478	1810	3.72	3.78	.06	+	+
3,380 1,800	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITNA)	1.2	8.06	1	150	279	1.84	1.86	.02	+	+
5,850 4,450	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.2	0.00	5	346	1608	4.45	4.67	.22	+	+
3,590 1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	17	5167	8784	1.30	1.33	.03	+	+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 196.03 CHG: +2.15 129 85162 1753780											
3,850 1,440	ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	10.2	5.40	2	605	841	1.44	1.39	.05	-	-
2,930 3,830	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.5	10.31	11	3650	6933	1.90	1.94	.04	+	+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 118.28 CHG: +0.02 13 4255 7773											
3,900 3,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.7	7.10	67	63971	106679	1.63	1.69	.06	+	+
2,950 8,000	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.2	0.06	2	879	7012	8.00	8.00	-	-	-
1,560 3,210	IRBID ELECTRICITY	9.4	6.94	2	120	273	1.44	1.41	-.03	-	-
6,050 4,200	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	17.5	2.91	1	400	1764	4.20	4.41	.21	+	+
2,050 2,590	SUPPLYING BK.	11.0	2.59	1	1000	2600	2.54	2.60	.06	+	+
3,960 3,080	BATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	97	70300	88454	1.21	1.27	.06	+	+
3,260 3,580	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	32.3	0.00	2	600	378	.61	.63	.02	+	+
2,880 6,660	JACH. REP. INT. HAIN.	9	0.00	1	500	331	.71	.67	-.04	-	-
2,100 1,850	JOR. EAST HOTELS	74.1	0.00	7	2850	4661	1.58	1.65	.07	+	+
3,890 3,120	ARAB INTL. INV. EDCO.	14.7	5.38	11	2950	10801	3.69	3.72	.03	+	+
3,270 980	PARSA EDUCATION	9	0.00	4	1150	1254	1.07	1.09	.02	+	+
2,430 1,700	DEVELOP. CO.	9.7	0.00	1	7950	14514	1.76	1.85	.09	+	+
1,200 820	UNION LAND DEV.	2	0.00	2	1500	1380	1.90	.92	-.02	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.19 CHG: +2.85 218 154170 240232											
3,770 3,060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.5	2.93	20	17085	58090	3.32	3.41	.09	+	+
3,550 2,710	JOR. PROPERTIES MIXER	33.4	0.00	2	550	1690	3.04	3.10	.06	+	+
10,550 8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	8.54	10	640	6009	9.40	9.37	-.03	-	-
1,590 3,150	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	57.3	0.00	18	10250	13287	1.28	1.29	.01	+	+
3,750 1,650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	27.8	0.00	3	569	1377	1.97	2.07	.10	+	+
4,870 3,040	ARAB FARM. VEST.	18.9	5.81	67	25926	89076	3.78	3.14	-.64	-	-
6,450 5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.7	4.03	1	600	3720	6.15	6.20	.05	+	+
2,650 2,050	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.94	1	1000	1080	2.15	2.16	.01	+	+
2,400 3,570	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	9.0	7.36	9	2300	3715	1.58	1.63	.05	+	+
12,650 8,450	ARAB CEMENT, STEEL	23.2	2.53	1	200	1700	8.50	8.50	-	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 314.12 CHG: +1.47 601 453606 594328											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 152.89 CHG: +1.89 961 697193 2596113											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/11/1996											
790	440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.5	0.00	7	2750	1540	.57	.56	-.01	-
800	510	JOR. TRADE FAIR	15.2	0.00	44	71650	4180	.55	.57	.02	+
950	440	NATL. COMM. CENTERS	2	0.00	22	29200	16475	.55	.56	.01	+
930	700	UNION INV. 50%	70.8	0.00	60	126750	30320	.72	.74	.02	+
3,120	370	ARAB FIB. INVEST.	9	0.00	4	13000	5720	.42	.44	.02	+
950	600	AL-DUMULAT 75%	16.5	0.00	24	30285	14836	.72	.74	.02	+
640	340	JOR. TMS. FINCH-JENCO	9	0.00	4	6500	2535	.37	.39	.02	+
860	510	ARAB FOOD & HOS.	2	0.00	7	3700	2477	.64	.66	.02	+
760	300	NATL. CEMENT	5	0.00	5	3450	2045	1.11	1.41	-.30	-
700	450	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	7500	3675	.47	.49	.02	+
3,000	520	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	26	26450	16051	.58	.60	.02	+
1,500	480	NATL. PET. ENG. HAKCO	15.2	0.00	4	7168	4180	.55	.57	.02	+
810	430	SAFARI DRES & HOS.	2	0.00	3	1000	490	.49	.49	-	-
3,080	720	JORDAN STEEL	2	0.00	21	11700	9041	.75	.77	.02	+
780	430	ARAB ELCT. IND.	2	0.00	3	600	400	.50	.50	-	-
3,350	300	TELKOM JORDAN 75%	2	0.00	2	1000	840	1.07	1.09	.02	+
840	570	RATL. PHARM. 65%	2	0.00	12	9946	2784	.60	.63	.03	+
1,830	390	JMS. ENG.	27.7	0.00	19	31300	14085	.43	.45	.02	+
1,430	750	JMS. CERAMIC	2	0.00	12	8951	7272	.89	.91	.02	+
880	590	NATL. FOOTWEAR	2	0.00	3	11500	7655	.66	.67	.01	+
950	800	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	59.0	0.00	1	500	420	.80	.84	.04	+
3,500	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	8.6	0.00	48	50800	36949	.71	.73	.02	+
GRAND TOTAL 335 463582 224124											

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"My husband is too tired for romance. Got any perfume with caffeine in the fumes?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble those four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESMY

GEITH

OSUREA

RALOPP

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIXTY OPERA MIDWAY VOLUME
Answer: How the car wash worker felt at the end of the day - WIPE OUT

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1st Division Basketball Championship Ahli, Orthodoxi meet tonight

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The country's all-time basketball rivals, Ahli and Al Orthodoxi, meet Sunday to conclude the preliminary round of the First Division Basketball Championship.

With the introduction this season of the playoff system, the result of tonight's match does not have any bearing on the title hopes of both unbeaten teams as the top four teams in the preliminaries qualify to play a two-leg playoff the winner of which will be crowned champion.

Nevertheless, that fact will not lessen the enthusiasm of fans and officials of both teams who have dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene for the past decades.

The match, scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m. at the Sports Palace, will be preceded by the women's

inaugural All-Star tournament (see separate story).

Al Orthodoxi's officials undoubtedly have a more relaxed feeling to tonight's match with their team having shown a more convincing form winning their previous matches.

While having a hard time subduing third-placed Al Jazireh, Al Orthodoxi finally won the match with a strong showing and a result of 95-83.

The rest of their results were a 77-57 win over Al Jalil, 133-54 win over Al Yarmouk, and 143-40 win

over Al Watani.

Al Ahli, on the other hand, came back from an 11 point deficit to beat Al Jazireh 63-60. They also had a tough time beating fourth-placed Al Jalil 78-70. They beat Al Watani 113-45. Al Yarmouk 74-37.

Al Ahli's younger lineup will be facing Al Orthodoxi in the absence of their top stars — Marwan Ma'touq, Yousef Zaghoul and Naser Bushnaq.

Al Orthodoxi are also represented by young players, like Ihab Mshih and Fadi Saqqa, however the

team is led by powerful veteran Hilal Barakat.

As the preliminaries conclude tonight, the playoffs will begin Dec. 5.

Meanwhile the two other teams, newcomers Al Yarmouk and Al Watani, will play another round the loser of which will automatically drop to the second division while the winner will face the second division runner-up in a match the winner of which gets to keep their place in the first division while the loser drops to the second division.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	SE	SA	Pts
Orthodoxi	4	4	0	-	448	234
Ahli	4	4	0	-	328	212
Jazireh	4	2	2	2	337	277
Jalil	4	1	3	3	291	308
*Yarmouk	3	-	3	3	178	310
*Watani	3	-	3	3	143	384

*Al Yarmouk and Al Watani have a postponed match

Jansher angers officials with late withdrawal

CARDIFF (R) — World number one Jansher Khan has angered squash officials by pulling out of a top-ranking international tournament starting in Bombay this weekend at the last minute.

"This late withdrawal will have to be vigorously reviewed," said Professional Squash Association (PSA) Executive Director John Niotick in a statement Friday.

A fax from Jansher was received at the PSA offices Thursday in which the player said he was pulling out because of security concerns and threats to his safety.

"It is the fourth time this

year Jansher has withdrawn from a PSA world tour event. Two years ago he also withdrew from the inaugural Mahindra challenge tournament in Bombay saying organisers were unable to satisfy his security requirements as a high profile Muslim in a city where volatile politics often revolve around religious affiliation.

Sheila Cooksey, PSA world tour director, said the withdrawal would be investigated as a violation of PSA rule.

"Players may not withdraw, other than with injuries, from a tournament after the entry deadline is passed," she said.

Broncos' great season could be better

NEW YORK (AP) — Denver's John Elway, one of the American National Football League's masters at using the clock, has played the season like time is running out on him.

Having one of the best years of his 14 in the league, Elway has the opportunity to put his team into a better position for the NFL playoffs with a victory Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks.

The Broncos can not only win their division Sunday, they also can earn a first-round bye in the playoffs and homefield advantage throughout the postseason.

"Our goal since summer camp was to win the AFC West (Division)," said Denver coach Mike Shanahan, whose Broncos have only lost a three-point decision to Kansas City in their 11-1 season so far. "We're going to take first things first. All I know is we play a team that beat us in our backyard last year, so we've got something to prove."

Last Dec. 10, Denver jumped out to a 20-0 lead, but Seattle rallied for 21 fourth-quarter points in a 31-27 victory. The Broncos haven't lost at home since, posting six straight wins.

A victory Sunday would give the Broncos the AFC West title. A victory combined with a loss by Pittsburgh (which plays at Baltimore) would earn the Broncos a first-round bye. Denver also could earn a bye with a victory if Buffalo and New England both lose. Finally, the Broncos would earn homefield advantage with a victory and with losses by Buffalo and Pittsburgh.

In other games Sunday, it's Arizona at Minnesota, Buffalo at Indianapolis, Chicago at Green Bay, Cincinnati at Jacksonville, New York Giants at Philadelphia, Tampa Bay at Carolina, Houston at the New York Jets, Miami at Oakland, St. Louis at New Orleans, and New England at San Diego. Monday night, San Francisco plays at Atlanta.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMARA HIRSCH
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A DOUBLE SPOONFUL OF LUCK

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ A K 8 5 3
♣ A K 10 5 3

WEST
♠ A Q 10 9 8
♥ A J 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ A 9 7 4 2

EAST
♠ K 5 2
♥ K Q J 7 6 4 3
♦ K
♣ A 8 6

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ 9 8 6
♦ A 10 9 4
♣ Q J

The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
Pass 2NT Pass 40
Pass 4C Pass 6C
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

In a performance which might never be equaled, Krzysztof Lasocki and Piotr Gawrys won the European Pair Championship. On their way to the title, they topped the field in each of the three qualifying rounds. To complete a stupendous performance by their country, Polish pairs also won the Senior Pairs, Brans Masters Invitation Pairs and Philip Morris B Pairs for a clean sweep of the event.

Lasocki and Gawrys have been a force in world bridge for some years. Their latest achievement was a combination of brilliant play, some gifts from the opponents and a dollop of luck. Here's an example of the latter.

Lasocki's two-no-trump opening bid showed a minor two-suiter and Gawrys's jump to four diamonds was natural and invitational. When Lasocki elected to cue-bid four hearts, Gawrys decided that there had to be play for him.

With any other lead, declarer would have had an easy time. When West found the lead of the ten of spades, declarer was in trouble. The first trick was taken with the ace, a heart was ruffed in dummy and the jack of diamonds was led, covered by the king and won with the ace. Since there was a certain trump loser, declarer had to avoid losing a spade to get home.

The queen and jack of clubs were cashed, a heart was ruffed on the table and declarer discarded two spades on the two ace and king of clubs. When West had to follow in all four clubs and East could not ruff, the slam was in the bag. Declarer's last spade went on the fifth club, and a trump was the only loser.

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Preparation for 17th Asian Championship begins with women's All-Star basketball tourney today

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With every participation in regional or international competitions, a simultaneous fundraising campaign is part of the game.

The Kingdom's inaugural women's basketball All-Star tournament, which kicks off tonight, is again the start of such a campaign after the decision of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) to regroup the women's national team for a possible participation in the 17th Asian Basketball Championship due to be held in Bangkok April 27, 1997.

Members of the national team will contest the All-Star tourney and have been divided into two teams. They will be wearing the logos of their first two sponsors — Babiche and Today.

The tourney will include three matches on Dec. 1, 5, and 12 preceding the men's first division matches at the Sports Palace.

Team officials say while players were called to start training over a month ago, the unavailability of a practice court has hindered setting fixed practice dates and times — a fact that seriously hinders their training programme for the Asian Championship.

The players include: (Babiche team) Rana Hussein, Rania Dajani, Tetyana Qardan, Talu Mauge, Hala Muheisen, Sirsa Abaza, Samar Banna, Randa Sayegh, Tala Abu Shmeis, Dana Abu Sham, Sahar Mdanat, Ellen Shaddad, Nour Kayyal, and Zein Sh'asha'a.

Today team: Indeira Qasesieh, Hind Ghouri, Tamara Khadra, Dima Shadid, Sirsa Naghaway, Hala Ghattas, Ruwa Hijazi, Yara Kheir, Luhna Masri, Shireen Bisbeh, Luma Abu Judum, Karol Kirreh, Najwa Shiber, and Rawan Stetieh.

Borussia Dortmund thwarted in bid to go top

BONN (R) — Borussia Dortmund's hopes of going top of the German First Division were thwarted when they were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Hamburg Friday.

Karsten Baeron's 79th minute equaliser for Hamburg — his fifth goal of the season — stopped Borussia from leading the standings for the first time since they clinched the league title on May 18.

Borussia had to be content with moving up to second spot, one point behind Bayern Munich who meet third-placed VfB Stuttgart on Sunday.

Borussia, missing suspended defender Jurgen Kohler and injured playmaker Andy Moeller, dominated the first half in front of a capacity crowd of 55,000 but scored three good scoring chances in the space of a few minutes.

Captain Michael Zorc and Heiko Herrlich (twice) were the culprits. Lars Ricken eventually broke the deadlock in the 23rd minute after being fed by Matthias Sammer.

"We lost the chance to go top because we missed so many good opportunities to score," said disappointed Borussia coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

But Hamburg coach Felix Magath felt his side deserved their point: "We were too nervous in the first half and it showed," he said. "But it was a different story in the second half."



Patrice Loko of Paris St. Germain (R) runs at the Caen defence as Rai (L) also of PSG and Stephane Dedebant of Caen (C) look on in their French league soccer match (Reuters photo)

PSG reclaim lead with 3-1 away win

PARIS (R) — Paris Saint-Germain snatched back the lead in the French division from Monaco when they came from behind to beat lowly Caen 3-1 away Friday.

With Brazilian Leonardo inspirational in midfield, psg scored through Panama's Julio Cesar Dely Valdes, his eighth league goal of the season, and French midfielders Vincent Guerin and Bruno N'Gotty.

"Mission accomplished, but with some scares and a team that only found itself after half an hour," said PSG executive director Michel Denisot.

"The championship is going to be hard fought up to the last day with Monaco, Bordeaux and Auxerre, who are also in the fight whatever their coach says."

Monaco won 1-0 at Montpellier to hold a two-point lead for 24 hours but PSG have now 42 points to Monaco's 41 after 20 matches.

Chadian playmaker

Japhet N'Doram missed a twice taken penalty but ended up with a hat-trick as Nantes crushed 10-man Cannes 5-1 to become the biggest scorers in the division with 37 goals, one more than Monaco.

Cannes were down to 10 men from late in the first half when defender David Jemmal was sent off for a second bookable offence.

With the score still 0-0 after more than half an hour N'Doram missed the first penalty kick after he had been brought down but the referee ordered a retake because of encroachment by Cannes players.

N'Doram had his second spot kick parried by goalkeeper Francois Lemaillon but netted the rebound.

The Chadian added further goals in the 50th and 89th minutes while teammates Claude Makelele and Jocelyn Gourvenne also found the net as Nantes climbed to 10th after equalling PSG's record run of 13 games unbeaten this

season. Nancy's Gregory Wimbec became the first goalkeeper to score in the French first division in open play for 15 years when he came up to snatch a last gasp equaliser from a corner in a 1-1 draw against Lens.

Nancy squandered a first half penalty and one in four has been in the first division so far this season.

Strasbourg striker David Zitielli was the only player to convert a penalty of the three awarded to help his side beat Lyon 3-0 and climb to third equal with Bordeaux on 34 points.

Zitielli scored twice, curling his first goal straight in from a corner kick, to join Rennes.

Guivarc'h as the division's leading marksmen with 14 each. Guivarc'h hit his side's only goal in a 3-1 defeat by bottom club Nice who won for the first time in 10 games.

Rennes are the worst travellers with only two points out of a possible 33 away.

Champions Auxerre rose one place to sixth with their first league win in five matches, 1-0 away to Lille with a goal by striker Lilian Laslandes. They play their final European Champions' League game at home to Glasgow Wednesday.

"We're off again. I had a rather restructured team. Our injured players worked well in solitude, allowing them to come back a bit sooner," said Auxerre coach Guy Roux.

"It was very important to win. Bastia and Metz lost and we have recovered a bit of ground, which will add some spice to our match with Bordeaux next week. But let's not get carried away. It was a match of convalescents."

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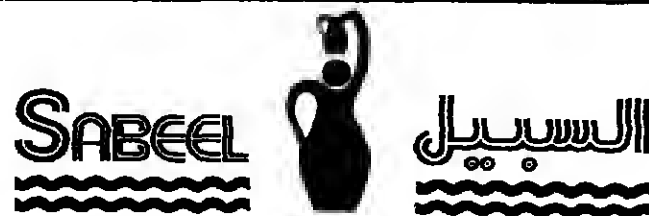


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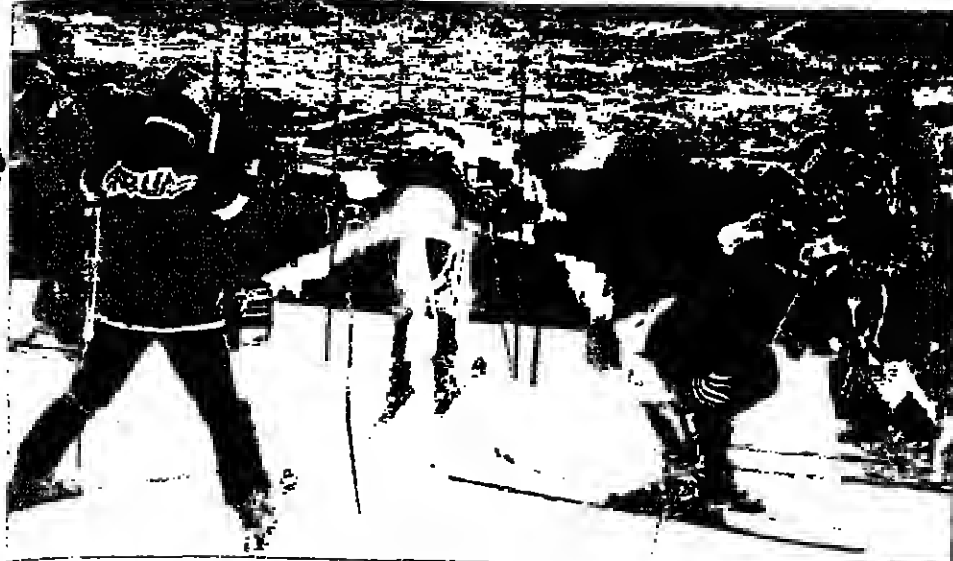
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World cup ski racers begin their training runs at the top of Peak Ten with a view of Breckenridge, Colorado in the background in preparation for world cup races (Reuters photo)

Street has a target on her back

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (R) — World Cup downhill champion Picabo Street, racing on one of her favorite hills, said Friday she'll have her hands filled when she goes after a personal and professional three-peat.

"I've been wearing the bulls-eye and they've all been chasing me for two years. I'll give it my best but if somebody else wins, I'll let her wear the bulls-eye for a week and go chase her," Street said after her final training run.

She won the first World Cup race of her career at Lake Louise in December 1994 and went on to become the first American skier to win a World Cup downhill title that season. She won her again last season and, by season's end, had made it two straight crowns. She's won nine races in the last two years.

"This time it's tougher," the 25-year-old from Sun Valley, Idaho. "If I'm in the top five, I'll be very happy. I came here looking to be top 10."

"A three-peat? It's almost too much to think about. I just want to focus on skiing as well as I can. This hill's been good to me. And they say 'third time's a charm' so we'll see."

Organisers have lengthened the course, going higher on the mountain for the start and lengthening the

bottom of the narrow run, making it a 2.8-kilometre course.

"They've made it a tougher course and that's appropriate because everyone's skiing better."

Thursday, when she stood through the final 100 meters to the finish and was tied for seventh, she noted, "Yeah, I had a good time but I didn't ski well. I've got a few things to clean-up."

After her final run, where she again stood for the final 50 meters and was tied for eighth, Street said, "Three days of training's brought me up to speed."

The women have raced two world cup giant slaloms and a slalom so far with the first downhill — the flamboyant Street's debut this season — and the inaugural Super-G Sunday at Lake Louise ski area.

Surgery to remove bone spurs on the outside of each foot in June limited some of her pre-season training. So did a lack of snow in South America which wiped out one downhill and Super-G training camp, and poor weather which plagued another in Australia in August and September as she got back on her skis.

"I love coming here. You can rock 'n' roll all the way down. It just keeps flowing and flowing to the bottom." German racer Katja Seizinger held a tight grip

on the world cup downhill crown, winning three straight before Street snatched the title in 1995 as she won six races. Seizinger, who also has won four straight Super-G championships and is the reigning women's overall World Cup title-holder, will join Street as one of the favorites for the first speed events of the season.

"Oh, I think this course helps some of the bigger girls because the weight helps as we keep charging down the hill."

Seizinger won the first training run while Zelenskaja, who lost an apparent victory when a snowstorm raked Lake Louise a year ago, had the fastest training run Thursday and Friday.

The American shreds at questions about any reported tiff with Seizinger. "What's to say? This 'feud' has been pretty well over-written. I respect her and I think 'Seize' respects me."

Street races with a brown helmet painted — by her high school art instructor, John Blackman — to resemble a ram's head, right down to the horns curling back past her ears to the side of each cheek.

"It's my sun sign. I'm an Aries and I like the toughness of a ram. You've got to be tough in downhill," she said.

Rockets beat Celtics for 8th straight victory; Sonics beat Suns

BOSTON (R) — Matt Maloney and Charles Barkley scored 18 points to lead the Houston Rockets to their eighth straight victory, a 120-94 blowout of the Boston Celtics Friday.

Hakeem Olajuwon — in his second game back after a three-game absence due to an irregular heartbeat — had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the 14-1 Rockets, who own the best record in the Western Conference. They entered the game tied with Chicago for the NBA's best record.

"Our spot shooting tonight was just outstanding," said Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich. "Defensively, we just wanted to take away their high-percentage plays."

In Detroit, Shaquille O'Neal had 27 points and 11 rebounds and combined with Eddie Jones to score all of the Lakers' points in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles defeated the Detroit Pistons, 84-76.

Nick Van Exel and Jones nailed consecutive three-pointers as the Lakers took the lead for good, 8-2, with 9:28 left in the first quarter. Jones made 3-of-5 three-pointers, tying an NBA record with at least two three-pointers in 22 straight games. He finished with 20 points.

"We just wanted to come in and play well," O'Neal said. "We read the paper this morning. I kind of like a challenge. They said we're going to foul him, make him shoot jumpers, make him go to his finesse hand, like I can't hit those shots, I just wanted to play my game and I did that."

In Dallas, Michael Jordan scored 36 points and Scottie Pippen added 32 and both keyed a pair of first-half runs as the Chicago Bulls continued their domination of the Dallas Mavericks with a 116-97 victory.

Jordan had eight of his 13 first-quarter points in a 12-0 spurt that saw Chicago open a 26-14 advantage. Dennis Rodman grabbed 12 of his 19 rebounds in the opening quarter for the Bulls.

"I'm happy about our winning," Jordan said.

In Denver, Sam Mitchell scored six of his 12 points in the final 90 seconds and rookie Stephen Marbury had a career-high 30 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves snapped a six-game road losing streak with a 108-103 triumph over the Denver Nuggets.

Antonio McDyess scored a career-high 34 points for Denver, which fell to 1-2 under new coach Dick Motta.



Houston Rocket Mario Elie (L) knocks away a shot by Boston Celtic Dana Barros in first quarter action. Houston won the game 120-94 (Reuters photo)

At Indiana, Reggie Miller scored 25 points and Jalen Rose added 17 as the Indiana Pacers kept the Vancouver Grizzlies winless on the road with a 104-94 victory.

Miller's driving layup with 2:28 left in the third quarter broke a 66-66 tie

and sparked a 10-6 run to end the period.

Rookie Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 20 points to lead the Grizzlies.

In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman scored 19 points and Jerry Stackhouse added 16 as the Philadelphia 76ers

scored the first eight points of the game and never trailed on the way to a 100-91 triumph over the Orlando Magic.

Clarence Weatherspoon had 15 points and rookie Allen Iverson added 14 and a season-high 10 assists as

the 76ers defeated the Magic for just the second time in their last 14 meetings.

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock had 25 points and seven assists and Dikembe Mutombo added 25 points and 15 rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks snapped the Washington Bullets' three-game winning streak with a 110-81 victory.

Tyrone Corbin had 17 points for Atlanta, which has won four of its last five home games. The Hawks led virtually from the opening tip after the game was tied, 2-2.

In Portland, Rasheed Wallace scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Gary Trent added 18 points and 10 rebounds off the bench as the Portland Trail Blazers dominated on the boards on the way to their sixth win in seven games, a 119-93 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

At Utah, John Stockton had 28 points and 10 assists to propel the Utah Jazz to their ninth straight victory, a 111-94 romp over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Karl Malone and Jeff Hornacek added 19 points apiece as Utah had all five starters in double figures. Greg Osterag contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz.

In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 26 points and Shawn Kemp added 25 as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the lowly Phoenix Suns, 105-92 for their 13th win in 14 games. Payton added seven assists, and Kemp grabbed 13 rebounds.

Detlef Schrempf had 14 points and nine rebounds and Craig Ehlo scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter for Seattle. Danny Manning had 18 points and 15 rebounds in 27 minutes off the bench before fouling out for Phoenix, which is 1-14.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Avdiyenko named Russian senior coach

MOSCOW (R) — Viktor Avdiyenko, who coached human 'submarine' Denis Pankratov to two Olympic butterfly titles in Atlanta, has been appointed senior trainer of the Russian swimming team. Avdiyenko, who also guided Yevgeny Sadovy to three Olympic crowns in Barcelona four years ago, has said he worked out Pankratov's technique of swimming under water for up to 30 metres.

Portugal's Rui Costa to stay at Fiorentina

FLORENCE (R) — Portugal midfielder Rui Costa said on Friday he had signed to stay at Italian First Division club Fiorentina until the year 2001. "I like it here and there was no reason to change clubs, because even if a lot of teams wanted me, no one wanted me as much as Fiorentina did," Costa told reporters after signing a new contract, said by Italian media to be worth two billion lire (\$1.3 million) a season. "I trust this team's management and I am confident I can win everything I want here," said Costa.

Engqvist levels Davis Cup tie

MALMO, Sweden (R) — Sweden's top player Thomas Engqvist levelled the Davis Cup final against France Friday when he beat Arnaud Boetsch in straight sets.

Earlier, Stefan Edberg had lost the opening singles against Cedric Pioline, also in three sets, after falling heavily and twisting his ankle.

Edberg, due to retire after the Davis Cup, said after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 defeat that his ankle injury could force him to miss his second singles against Boetsch Sunday.

Engqvist continued his outstanding form of recent months with a clinical 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 win over Boetsch.

After breaking Boetsch's serve at the end of the first set, the lanky Swede wore down his opponent, firing powerful baseline shots around the court.

He took the third set 7-2 after both players had broken service once.

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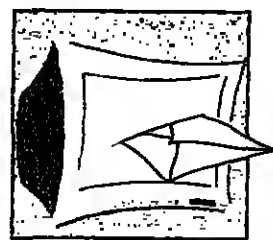
Boston University's Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP) offers specially designed intensive English language programs for international students who wish to improve their English. The majority of these students are preparing for study at an American University.

Mr. Lawrence O'Connor, Admissions Representative, will be visiting Amman on December 9 & 10, 1996, and will be available for guidance and counseling for admission to Boston University. Please telephone the Marriott Hotel, Amman at 607607, extension 2035 from 8 am. to 4 pm, to schedule an appointment. Alternatively call Mr. Khalid Rifai at 865922 during working hours.

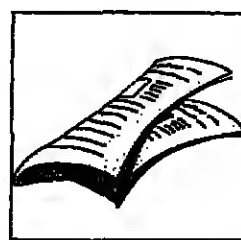
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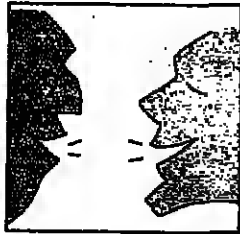
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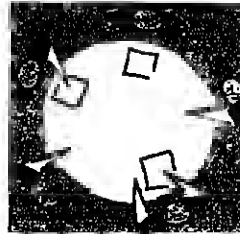
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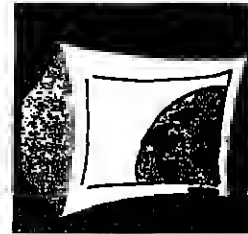
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STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's state-run employment agency is under fire for a tip it gave job-hunters — approach pregnant women, find out where they work and ask if they plan to take maternity leave. A group of unemployed women has now complained to Sweden's parliamentary ombudsman about the advice, published in the job agency's newspaper, the national Swedish news agency TT said. "This is degrading. What will the next step be? Stand in the hospital casualty?" asked Siv Berglund, one of the group filing the petition. "I agree the formulation of the statement was a bit unfortunate," TT quoted Hakan Lindgren, the newspaper's publisher, as saying. A spokeswoman for the ombudsman's office said it had not yet received the complaint.

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